



Come to friendly Australia



FOR THE

WORLD DIPCON III

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Edited and Published by John Cain, 76 Banool Rd, Balwyn, 3103, AUSTRALIA.

Phone (03) 344 5367 bh, (03) 836 2285 ah. I can be faxed, but ring me first.

GMs: Bill Brown, 495 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, 3124. (03) 809 2913.

George Smirnow, 15 Aubrey St, Vermont, 3133. (03) 873 3110.

Frank Meerbach, 11 Holroyd Dr, Epping, 3076. (03) 401 4356.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Victoriana usually costs \$2.00 an issue, make all cheques payable to John Cain, not Victoriana. All subscriptions to John Cain, address above.

Overseas subscriptions: Use the ISE if possible. I can cash personal cheques, but my bank now charges me \$3.00 for the foreign currency conversion. You could send cash, but I wouldn't want to encourage you to do anything you shouldn't...

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MOVIE QUIZ

Win a free issue of Victoriana!

Send entries to:
Bill Brown, 495 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, 3124.

MOVIE QUIZ No9

1. What 1980 movie concerned a sailor who arrived in Sweethaven and fell for Miss Oyl?
2. What Bond film saw the appearance of the villainous Rosa Klebb?
3. What's been called "the biggest people trap ever built by a mouse"?
4. Who was the Star Wars bartender pointing at when he said: "We don't serve their kind in here"?
5. What Victor Hugo novel was filmed in 1909, 1913, 1918, 1922, 1925, 1934, 1935, 1946, 1952, and 1957?
6. Who played the alien in The Day the Earth Stood Still?
7. What organisation ended up in possession of the Ark of the Covenant?

MOVIE QUIZ No8

ANSWERS

1. ISTANBUL'S.
2. APOCALYPSE NOW.
3. BEN.
4. A GIANT BOAR.
5. MARLON BRANDO. (Bickies is a diminutive of biscuits, big bickies is slang for a lot of money.)
6. BO DEREK.
7. JOHN LENNON.

SCORES

- 7 Helen Kleinbergs, Pete Gaughan, Frank Meerbach and Paul Yovich.
- 5 Steve Bagshaw
- 4 John Cain, Jeff Perkins and Shane Beck.

BONUS ANSWERS

- A) LOVE AND HATE.
- B) THE SEVEN SAMURAI.
- C) FROGS.

BONUS SCORES

- 3 Helen and Paul
- 2½ Frank
- 2 Steve and Jeff
- 1 Shane and Pete

TOTAL ROUND 3 SCORES

- 26 Helen Kleinbergs
- 24 Paul Yovich
- 23½ Frank Meerbach
- 14 Pete Gaughan
- 8 Grant Schmarr
- 7 John Cain and Steve Bagshaw
- 6 Brendan Whyte and Jeff Perkins
- 5 Shane Beck

WINNER!!

Helen wins the free issue of Vicki.
Paul beats Frank again by ½ point.

Alright, everyone starts from scratch again from next round. I think I'll have to try to make these Bonuses a bit harder....

QUIZ No9 Bonus Questions:

- A) What film featured an aerial attack at Prairie Stop, a deserted bus stop on Highway 41?
- B) What John Ford classic was about a man tracking down the Indians who massacred his brother and sister-in-law?
- C) What colossal prehistoric reptile did the Japanese film industry unleash upon the world in 1955?

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

Michael Gibson (1/98 Great Titchfield St, London, W1P 7AG, UK):

Dear John (Mr Lonely) Cain,

Yes, John, this is it! Your letter from me, you lonely, lonely guy. Though why you should want it when you have so many people from around the world writing to you...

Things chug along quietly here in London, and particularly quietly here at Great Titchfield St. Jane and I are still working, and in love and Mathew and Cathy are not working and in love.

In eight days Mat flies to Canada to begin his epic journey across rugged mountains and mighty rivers, through deep forests and over great plains in order to find himself and a career in national park management. He hates big cities (London in particular) and is travelling with a knapsack on his back into the isolation of rural North America. He seeks peace and backroads and work. Whilst part of me loves big cities and neon, part of me is jealous of his career.

There is a diaspora of Australians from London at the moment. Three fellow architects, out of work, are heading off to Europe or North America before heading back to Australia. Finally, with a vacuum of friends, I will have time and stimulus to make British friends, meet new people and so forth...

How is the political situation in Australia? Last Monday, Easter Monday, we awoke to a message left by our flatmates (also Australian architects) that there had been a leadership battle and that Hawke had been replaced by Keating amid rumours of a renewed alcoholism. ((If only...)) It took me two days to realise it was a practical joke, an April Fool's day prank.

Here in Britain, it is a joke. Interest rates are on the way down, the Government has sold everything and still they manage to shoot themselves in the foot. Competing with starving Kurds for headline space is the news that the Government intends to close down London Zoo. Real vote winner that one...

Lunch time at work, and all is quiet. There is hardly any work in the office, and our directors have just come back tanned from skiing in Switzerland. Ten days in the sunny Alps, and all I can manage is two days in wet Cornwall. We drove around the tail of Britain, seeing the most southerly point and the most westerly point in England in one day. Lizard Point (south) is now a paddock covered in satellite dishes, and Land's End (west) is now a Disneyesque theme park. We drove back to London with our bellies full of scones, cream and pasties, and the hire car full of cider.

((You cant say that Andrew and I didn't warn you about Land's End. Maybe it's Disneyesque, but if so, very inferior to the real Disney. Aren't the satellite dishes at Lizard Point a left-over from SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence)? We never made it to Lizard Point. But I do remember that the scones, cream and pasties were good (but expensive).

((If only the Labor Party would hurry up and finish self-destructing! They stink like a week old corpse. Too long without a change of government I'm afraid - the closets need to be swept out properly. Apart from financial incompetence (state government financial institutions all having lost billions in W.A., Victoria and now S.A.) things are smelling very bad on the political corruption front in W.A. as well - Brian Burke (retired W.A. Premier) has returned from his cushy job as Ambassador to Ireland and the Vatican to attempt to explain away allegations made by Laurie Connell at the Royal Commission into W.A. Inc. in Perth. And of course Hawke and Keating have ponged for quite some time now. In Victoria, everyone and everything has shut up shop and is waiting for the state election (Labor has 18 months of their term left to run - if they hang together that long) where the Labor state government is facing ritual and horrible massacre on the altar of voter displeasure and outrage. Of course, the state opposition really gives one confidence - today they just changed leaders again! After a lack-lustre 18 months or so,

they have tossed Brown out and brought back in Kennett. Who could vote for such a pack of Turkeys? If they can't even decide who is their leader, how can they run the state?))

Shane Beck (14 Anglo Crt. Mooroolbark, 3130): I've been thinking (a novel experience, I know) but is WDC III going to have after tournament boardgames as an added incentive for us bombed-out Diplomacy neophytes? If so, what boardgames?

((You will be pleased to learn that plans are afoot to have a "multi-player boardgames competition" after hours at WDC III. We will have access to the venue each evening until midnight (and the bar and other facilities should, I hope, be open too!) Frank Meerbach has been approached to organize the competition. People play whatever multi-player boardgames they like, and the results are handed in to Frank. He collates them using a simple points system, and a winner is announced at the prize-giving ceremony. Should be fun, and make for some enjoyable social contact - tournament Diplomacy is too competitive to promote general social enjoyment.))

Matt Hastings ("Selecta" Elys Ln. Harcourt North, 3453): Thanks for the house rules. I have a minor query concerning the ethics that apply to the confidentiality of peoples letters (although I hesitate when using "ethics" in relation to Diplomacy players). Is it poor form to reproduce or show someone's letter to another person playing in the game? Does it happen?

((Some players regard "copy-sending" as very poor form and would never stoop to it. Others will do anything and everything, and can't resist something that is a little low. Never-the-less, I don't think a lot of copy-sending goes on. The problem for the copy sender is that they are putting themselves on the line - what if the person they send the copy to proceeds to pass a copy of the copy on to the person who originally wrote the letter? The copy-sender would be totally discredited and the original author will never trust them again. Ouch!

((Like any other dirty tactic, whether or not you use it is your own choice, but if you do, don't do it too often or you will end up with a very dirty reputation. Personally, I've been shown a letter from another player once, but that was in "Nicholas" and was so I could enjoy the letter, not to affect my decisions. Of course, I'd never show anyone a letter (ha, ha)!))

Don Del Grande (142 Eliseo Drv. Greenbrae, CA 94904, USA): I see that plans are beginning to form for World Dipcon III and that you are one of the contact persons. As a service to someone who's planning on attending WDC (and staying in Australia and New Zealand for three or four weeks) could you be bothered to answer a few questions? (You might want to put this information in Victoriana -- upcoming issues of my zine Lemon Curry will feature a series on planning for a trip to WDC, including a list of all places in the USA where Australian Visas can be obtained).

First of all, what accommodations will be available and over what time frame? This is vital to anyone who has to make plane and hotel reservations months (before, after, and maybe during the event) in advance.

Second, is WDC part of Cancon, or is it a separate event? If it is part of Cancon, do I need to register for Cancon in advance?

Third, what happened to this year's New Zealand Diplomacy Championships? I know it has nothing to do with WDC, but I thought it was scheduled for Easter, and yet I've heard nothing about it.

Fourth, can the West Indies be beaten this time? ((It seems not.)) (I really am getting off the track, aren't I?) And will Graham Hick's test debut be as big as the hype? ((Yet to be seen. He wasn't so hot in Australia this summer, but struck form towards the end of the season.)) And can the Maggies repeat? ((Spare us!)) (And was that a reference to the AFL or the next election

in Great Britain?) ((Either way, I repeat -- spare us!)) And will I be able to get off more questions before I'm dragged off to the insane asylum? (Apparently not...) ((Thank goodness...))

((We are planning to hold WDC separately from Cancon (so there will not be an outrageous fee to enter on-the-day, although there may be a discount for entering early). Luke and Harry (or is it Neil?) are putting together a pamphlet "Info-Pak" covering matters such as accommodation and transport. We are planning to offer international visitors who are interested in them billets before and after WDC in Sydney and Melbourne. In Canberra, most of us stay in Motels, or the infamous Toad Hall (for those, like me, who are more budget minded) Toad Hall was \$26/night, or \$18/night for students, this year (all the rooms are single, but that doesn't prevent the budget minded sharing them). I've never stayed in a motel in Canberra, having friends and relatives I can stay with, but I gather that it doesn't hurt to shop around as the prices vary.

((I read in Damn the Consequences that the NZ Champs did go ahead. Apparently there were four games in total, two on the first day and one on each of the following two days. For the full details, we'll have to wait for a report from John Dods. Or maybe we can get one out of Michael Norrish, who was at the convention (and was lucky enough to have Brendan Whyte staying with him, I gather).))

Michael Norrish (3 Waipapa Tce, Wellington 3, NEW ZEALAND): Tomorrow the New Zealand National Wargaming Convention begins, and John Dods will be running a National Diplomacy Championships there as well. This is all happening in Wellington (about 15-20 minutes walk from where I live) so I am going to it. If John D doesn't write you a report, I might do one and even if he does, I hope you'll be interested in one from a player's perspective as well.

I don't know how keen you are on the Australasian perspective as such, but the NZ hobby is such a small beastie at this stage, that any help a "foster-parent" is willing to provide is much appreciated. In any case, I find that reading about Australian Cons that I have never been to, with participants that I have never met, is still reasonably interesting.

((Any report on the NZ Dip Champs that you'd care to provide would be much appreciated -- I'm always on the look-out for contributions from readers.))

Mark Nelson (21 Cecil Mount, Armley, Leeds, LS12 2AP, UK): I've nothing further to add regarding variants, except that my argument is based on the concept of courtesy rather than legality. I don't think I made this clear.

When I designed Diadochi VI, I was aware that it wasn't balanced and needed further revision. However, I figured it would be better to play-test it first before doing any additional revision. I think that Bel is a good centre to remove if you wish to remove a centre in the west -- I dislike an extra rule that applies only to one province. How about removing Lus as a province? It serves little purpose. If possible, I'd like to remove five or six centres. Also, should Arm join the off-board box? Comments are welcome!

((Certainly, courtesy is a point in favour of your arguments -- I think part of my point was that it is difficult to be so courteous from a distance of 16,000 km.

((I'll put your comments on Diadochi VI to the players in "Hannibal".))

Frank Meerbach (11 Holroyd Drv, Epping, 3076): Well, I'm glad that is over! A disappointingly small, but very competitive field contested the 1991 Victorian Diplomacy Championships at Easter, which was won in fine style by Rob Wessels. Congratulations Rob! A detailed report is enclosed.

I've decided to become more involved in Diplomacy, so I'll accept the role of GM in another of your games. My suggestion for the game name is WALKER in honour of "Tangles".

⑥

who may not have been the best cricketer that Australia ever produced, but who was certainly one of the most entertaining.

In future issues of Victoriana I should be able to provide enough material for a sub-zine, to be called Nostradamus. The main content of the sub-zine will be an unusual game of Diplomacy "played" by seven fictitious characters. Readers will vote on moves to be played and each issue will feature an in-depth fictional account of the "negotiations" that might have taken place and the thoughts of these players before selecting their moves. Hopefully this will provide some humour as well as some insights into negotiation techniques and tactical considerations.

The success or failure of Nostradamus is thus dependent on the amount of interest shown in it by your readers. While there is a competitive side to all this, I hope that readers will choose to participate mainly for the fun of the game itself. The competitive side? Actually there will be two competitions submerged within this game. The first is the competition that inspired this variant of mine (called Prophecy) and involves the readers making predictions on the actual number of centres that each country in the game will have at the end of 1906. The reader whose prediction is closest will receive the first of two main prizes -- a year's subscription to Victoriana (12 issues). The second competition is to see who can score the most points with their votes for the player's moves. The winner each season will receive one free issue of Victoriana, and the best scorer over the entire game wins a years subscription. Details on how the voting system and point scoring works will be published in the first issue of Nostradamus. Readers who cant wait that long can get a draft copy of the rules from me by writing to me at the above address.

The names and backgrounds of the fictitious characters participating in this game have not yet been finalized. Readers with suggestions may forward them to me at the above address at least three days before the main Victoriana deadline for the next issue.

((Sounds interesting, and could be a lot of fun -- especially if you are not afraid to slander prominent hobby members! There is always a lot of mileage in slander.))

Harry Kolotas (44 Arthur St, Forestville, 2087): Enclose is the DAA Newsletter #1, which is going out to zine editors and is available for publication. I also enclose my subscriber list for the database. If you require assistance with this, just post me the subscriber lists and I will collate the information and post out copies to all the editors (not that I have masses of spare time, but you seem to be doing more than your fair share of the work on the ideas we discussed over Easter).

This week I will be meeting with Luke and Neil and we will be going over the matters we raised in Melbourne regarding WDC III. I hope to have the promotional pamphlet put together at this meeting and I will send it to you a.s.a.p. If you want to put out your own publicity or the overseas hobby, by all means go for it.

Regarding the Grand Prix points system for the National Tournament Championship, I think it is fine as is. I will present it to Luke, Neil and Clive for their comments. I think you should invite Bill's comments, and possibly Gieg's and (of course) George's before we definitely run with it. For the sake of unanimity and warm, fuzzy good vibes amongst hobby egotists.

((The WDC Address Database (as I am calling it) is going fine. So far there are over 200 names, 95% of them with addresses, comprising the mailing lists of Victoriana and Beautiful Losers, plus everyone who has attended a tournament since the start of 1990 and everyone who has attended the Victorian Diplomacy Club since the middle of last year. All I need now is mailing lists from the other editors (hopefully, on their way) and to add a few miscellaneous names, and it will be finished. Not only will this be used for publicity for WDC III, but I will also compile it into a "Hobby Census" for distribution to all editors.

((Actually, I do have a reasonable amount of spare time, although an inordinate amount of it seems to be spent on hobby rubbish at times.

((The National Tournament Championship points system is published in this issue. Comments are, of course, welcomed.))

Bill Brown (495 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, 3124): I'm (slowly) compiling all the centre count records for the last three to four years into a "Tournament Centre Ratings Chart". Based on raw figures, guess who comes up on top? ((If I had to guess, I'd say Robert Wessels, but since you're asking the question, maybe it isn't him? I dunno.)) Eventually I'll be using certain qualifications (say four games) and scoring refinements (giving 34 points for a win, 'losers' zero). The interesting thing that I've seen so far from the "raw" figures has been some players improvement over the years, for example Frank Meerbach: 1988 3.00, 1989 3.50, 1990 7.50, or Adrian Fegan: 1988 3.00, 1989 6.40, 1990 7.42. What I think may be possible is to eventually get a "Player's Rating" out of it, something like: 8+ Excellent Player, 7-8 Very Good Player, 5-7 Good Player, 4-5 Average Player, 2-4 Ordinary Player, <2 Bunnyland (with 4.86 being the "average" score for a game -- 34 centres divided by 7 players being the "average" average as a guide). I don't see these as being updated every tournament like Beautiful Losers accomplishes, more of a yearly update with Best Player of the Year, Most Improved, Career Scores, etc. being published once a year after SADO. RATE would probably do the same thing, I'm just using a simple spreadsheet which seems to handle the information quite well (certainly makes it a lot easier than by hand). Once again, I think it is something players can relate to; if your rating is around 6, then any game over that will improve your standing. Being only a yearly, "career" thing, it shouldn't encourage centre grabbing or the tall-poppy syndrome as it would if you distribute a similar list before every Tourney.

WDC III -- Great advertisement, good graphics, I suppose you've already considered a Crocodile Dundee type approach: "That's a stab? This is a stab!" but I like the "friendly approach". I wonder if Luke has been granted an Australian Tourism Grant yet?

((I have to admit that I had nothing to do with the excellent advertisement for WDC III -- it was completely a Sydney production.

((Your "Tournament Centre Rating Chart" sounds very interesting -- I'd like to see the results once you've polished them up. I tried to do something similar with RATE last year, but the system was unable to cope with more than 204 names. I believe the latest version has removed this problem, but I don't have a copy yet.))

Don Del Grande (142 Eliseo Drv, Greenbrae, CA 94904, USA): Thanks for including the World Dip Con III (or however it's spelled) with the latest Victoriana.

Of course there's no baseball equivalent term for "an innings defeat"; baseball results are listed as each team's final score, like in most sports. For obvious reasons, this doesn't work in cricket. Speaking of cricket... what's this about an England vs. Australia match at WDC? Would this be "real" (outdoor) cricket, or this wimpy 8-a-side indoor stuff where the same batsman can be bowled about sixteen times at a cost of five runs per wicket? (If it is the outdoor kind, I can be called upon in case neutral umpires are needed; let me pull out my copy of Cricket Umpiring and Scoring and the laws from the 1991 Wisden; I'm almost as good an umpire as I am a Railway Rivals GM... ((No comment)).)

A complaint -- the AFL isn't on television this year (at least not so far). I can hear bits and pieces on Radio Australia's special commentary frequency, but they interrupt for horse racing every 30 minutes. (This happened in the closing minutes of last year's Grand Final as well). One question: who is the new team?

⑧

((The new AFL team is Adelaide (the Crows) who have finally joined after holding out against the AFL for several years. I would have thought that Radio Australia would know better than to interrupt the Grand Final. I thought their base was in Melbourne but maybe I'm wrong and they're in Sydney like the rest of the ABC.

((Any cricket match at WDC would of course be outdoors. I think it would need to be Australia vs. the World, to get enough players for the opposition.))

Victor Hall (49 Varty Rd, Stamford Hill, London, N15, UK): I wrote to Doug Rowling a while ago enquiring about Australian postal Dip zines and he recommended your zine Victoriana and passed on your name and address. I've been playing postal Dip now for about ten years now and so far I've only ever subscribed to British zines, so I thought it was about time I had a look at some foreign zines and even played an international game or two of Dip.

As for a bit about me, well I'm 27 and have a degree in plant physiology. I spent a couple of years at Warwick University doing research into plant viruses, but when my contract came to an end I moved back to London and ended up working in the accounts department of a graphics company. In fact I'm now studying to be an accountant. Strange how things turn out sometimes.

((Thanks and welcome aboard, Victor. I'm not sure you did yourself a favour by revealing that you're studying to be an accountant - with the financial collapses occurring left, right and centre in Australia at the moment, I think accountants are challenging lawyers for the title of "most despised profession". <grin>))

Ken Sproat (14 Meaby St, Jan Juc, 3228): It was good to see you at the Victorian Diplomacy Championships over Easter. As most people will see, I got a few wicked lessons in "How to play Diplomacy". Thanks for making your house available for games playing on the Monday - I really miss those Wednesday nights at Robert Slot's place.

((Hmmm, those Wednesday nights were quite some time back. I wonder whatever happened to Robert Slot anyway. He went back to the Netherlands for "six months", and we never saw him again. Anyway, Ken, if you want to play more games, you'll just have to come along to the Victorian Diplomacy Club...))

Daniel Jew (93 Mimosa Cres, Singapore, 2880): Thanks for the two issues you sent me on good faith alone; here's some money.

I have been told that my handwriting is illegible at times (mainly by the poor tutors who have to mark my essays) but this one takes the cake. My first name is in fact Daniel, not David (I hope you could read that). I knew I wrote that letter to you in a bit of a hurry...

What has happened to John Dods? I haven't received VFAS since last October, nor TIE since December. I hope he hasn't sent some stuff to me which got lost in the mail.

The half of Victoriana which isn't game results gives some interesting insights into the Australian hobby, its events and "hobby icons". Good luck to Doublethink. If you are reading this Mr Olive, any chance of an international game, or a sample issue?

((Whoops, sorry about your name! I would guess it was a combination of my being in a rush (as usual) and your bad handwriting. Nothing has happened to John Dods that I am aware of - I have seen several zines from him since the dates you mention. Maybe you should write and check you sub hasn't expired or something. I'm sure Lachlan will read this, so if you are lucky you may score a sample issue.))

Neil Kendrick (34 Eileen Rd, Birmingham, B11 4HX, UK): Thanks for the latest Victoriana, which arrived today. I thought that as I had nothing better planned, I would reply

Word Processor and I am enjoying playing, all be it for a short time. Far superior to my manual typewriter. So if this letter appears slightly weird, you will understand why. I hope, as it is all an experiment and you, my poor fool (er... I mean friend) have been designated as the guinea-pig.

Regarding my enquiry about WDC III, I must emphasise that at this time it is merely an enquiry. The sheer logistics of the exercise are phenomenal, let alone getting together the budget, but I am working on that. I have applied to a couple of electronics companies out that way so you may have to suffer the indignity of another Brit coming Down Under more or less permanently. I can already hear your sniggers... so watch out, you never know what you may be letting yourself in for!

[...] It is a real shame [Mark Nelson] writes letters like the one in #44; the majority of the hobby over here respect and are grateful for the amount of work he puts into the hobby in one way or another [...] but that type of letter does him no favours. This variant thing is a matter that has been rumbling on for a long time now and quite honestly, apart from one or two, I think most variant designers are happy to see other members of the hobby playing their variant and enjoying it. This is not a professional hobby, it is a bunch of like minded people doing what they enjoy most in their spare time and (in the case of designers) hoping others will enjoy their work. Putting restrictions on their work would, in my opinion, not only discourage some designers, but would also add unnecessary work and restrictions to the editors and players of the game. [...] Mark would do better in putting his considerable energies into being constructive and promoting variants. Having them copyrighted is NOT the best way to go about this.

Finally, and the main reason for all this is that I am attempting to start afresh with a new zine, the *Flyer* is enclosed. I have not, as yet, figured out a rate for overseas, but it is likely to be 50p for up to four sides, then 10p for every four sides up to the maximum -- 16. I am hoping to get an "international game" going, so this is not a trade offer (I am not going to trade) just a mention in case anyone is interested.

((I hope this wont offend you, but I'm afraid I had to take the scissors to your last paragraph. I dont mind comments that are on some Diplomacy related topic, constructive or otherwise, but if you and/or Mark want to swap personal criticism, you can surely do it in a zine closer to home. We already have enough feuds in Australia without importing more from Britain!))

((OK, there is your plug Neil. If you are using a word processor much, I suggest you learn how to use the spell-checker -- I had to fix quite a few typos in there. Wonderful things, spell-checkers, although they encourage slack composition which can lead to bad grammar -- I speak from personal experience. Actually, I'm checking out a grammar-checker soon; although it wont get used this issue (learning Word for Windows is enough for one issue). Anyway, good luck with your new zine.))

BILL BROWN TALKS TO... (continued)

involved. Guv and Brett are at this stage only attending tournaments, but they may be induced into a new PBM game. Oh and I think the Singh's are also involved although I haven't spoken to Grahame Gerard about the Bunnies Club in quite a while.

Q5. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT SO FEW HAVE CONTINUED TO PARTICIPATE?

As I said, not many of the locals were in the hobby to start with. They were involved with us and knew how to play. I cajoled or conned them into playing games and then they were stuck there.

I'll actually be doing an article on what all the ex - 2250 cartel are now doing for Lachlan's DOUBLE THINK in one of the first few issues.

I expect the same goes for a lot of zines. They have a 'local' contingent which, if the zine weren't local, wouldn't be involved. Look at the MAS people, or Victoriana's VDC people.

Bill Brown Talks To

Craig Brown

Hi Craio. You're former editor of Politics of War and known to be preparing to enter into joint partnership - editorship of a new magazine with Lachlan Olive, sometime editor of Mars Archaeological Society.

Q1. WHY DID YOU GIVE UP THE EDITORSHIP OF POLITICS OF WAR?

I gave up editing POL initially for only a few issues. Unfortunately the wrong people took over. I thought handing the zine over to the others for a few issues would teach them a bit about producing a zine and encourage them to help and contribute, while giving me a break.

Unfortunately Jim took over as a dictatorial leader and quickly alienated most of the rest of the local hobby. Also due to his pushy and arrogant attitude we lost quite a number of subscribers.

Eventually, because of some mess up in the new production method where they tried to get free copying they blew all the subs in one hit.

So Jim decided to not put out his second issue. I lost my zine. The money was gone - I couldn't afford to replace it as I wasn't working and so were the articles and games. Eventually I got most of it back - not the money - the games and I sent them to MAS.

Q2. WHY THEN GET INTO EDITING A NEW MAGAZINE?

I'm not actually editing the new zine. Lachlan is. I am merely his chief assistant. I'll try to chase up some articles, get subscribers interested - that sort of thing.

The reason I'm getting back into it is because I never really wanted to leave it for good. I enjoy the cutting and pasting of zine production.

Q3. WHAT SORT OF MAGAZINE DO YOU HOPE IT WILL BECOME?

I have very little idea what the zine will become. I know Lachlan is interested in providing BNC and MNC details. I also know he has a fascination for variants. Perhaps these two factors will help shape it.

Oh, there is one aspect that we intend to cultivate. I think we are going to run a Smirnov v World feud for the first few months.

Q4. HOW MANY OF THE GROUP BASED AROUND POL CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENERAL DIPLOMACY HOBBY?

Very few. Actually, not that many were ever involved in the larger hobby. Only Guy, Brett and myself are still actively

DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

44 Arthur St, Forestville
N.S.W. 2087 Australia
Telephone: (02) 975 1538
Fax: (02) 319 3514

D.A.A. Newsletter 1, April 1991.

D.A.A. - Dead or Alive?

Michael Hopton informed us at Cancon '91 that Ben Groenen had tendered his resignation as D.A.A. President. Ben felt he was unable to put time and effort into the role. It should also be noted that Ben returned the balance of the D.A.A. funds. At the "official" dinner during the Cancon weekend it was decided to fill the vacant D.A.A. position. A vote was duly taken and I became the new president of the D.A.A.

Was It Legal?

There has been some querying of the procedure behind this election. It has been pointed out that the D.A.A. constitution outlines a specific method by which its office bearers should be elected.

Admittedly, the election at Cancon was unorthodox to say the least. However, the unexpected nature of Ben's resignation left us with almost no advance notice that a new President was going to be required. Setting this aside, the whole question of who should be eligible to vote in an election is rendered meaningless by the almost nonexistent membership base. I don't believe there are more than half a dozen officially paid up D.A.A. members. If any of these people object to the legality of the election then I suppose some action should be taken to annul the result and hold a more formal process. Given the circumstances, I feel we should avoid legalistic quibbling about election protocol and get on with the job. I will happily stand down from the position should another suitable candidate step forward who is acceptable to the hobby.

The President's Role.

I see my position as an interim one, replacing Ben until the next elections are formally held. Consequently I don't believe I should be pushing extreme points of view which could alienate sections of the hobby. There are several tough issues looming in the future if the hobby is to advance (accrediting tournaments, D.A.A. membership fees, settling on acceptable ratings systems for tournaments and so forth) but I don't consider the D.A.A. or the D.A.A. President to have broad support or a mandate to act on these contentious issues. Instead, I believe the D.A.A. should serve as a publicity and promotion vehicle for the hobby. The President's function is more of a P.R. officer, co-ordinating various promotional aspects of Diplomacy. Beyond this, the D.A.A. can serve as a co-ordinating point to implement changes which are acceptable to the hobby at large. The D.A.A. President's role in such situations will simply be to act as a catalyst encouraging conclusions, bringing together the ideas of diverse hobby members. The D.A.A. will be a conduit for change rather than an initiator. There will be no pretensions to power and glory attached to the role and so there will be no factionalism, inter-state rivalry or any other forms of divisiveness. It also goes without saying that the President cannot be involved in any decisions which benefit him financially or as a player in a tournament.

Where Do We Go From Here?

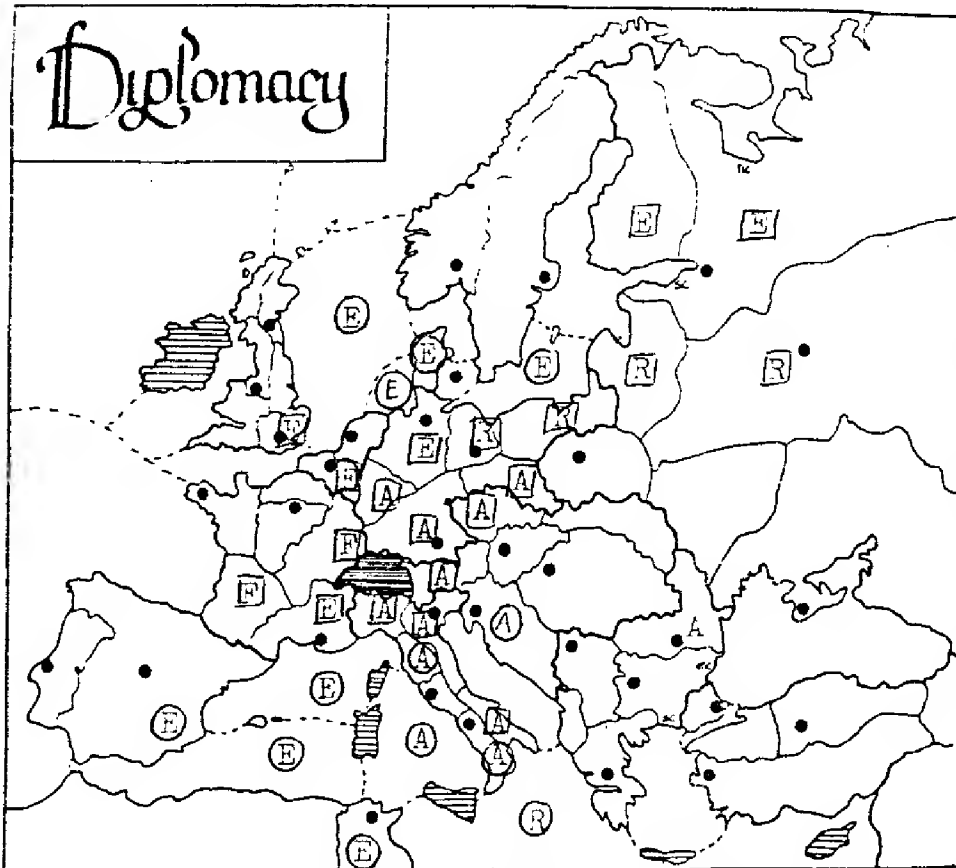
The priority commitment must be to assist in the organization of World Dipcon '92, which is to be held in Canberra. During April the D.A.A. will be approaching potential sponsors, issuing the promotional up-date compiled by Luke Clutterbuck, John Cain and the other organizers and putting together plans for merchandising. Hopefully these efforts will have spin-off benefits for other tournaments and the hobby generally.

Apart from matters relating to World Dipcon '92, several of us are working on a national tournament scoring system which will encourage the concept of an inter-state grand prix circuit. After a meeting in Melbourne over the Easter weekend, a basic scoring system was formulated and John Cain is currently putting the finishing touches to it. Some time this month a copy of the system will be circulated to interested parties and it is hoped that we will have an acceptable system in place before the N.S.W. Championships. We are also putting together a database of zine subscribers so that for the first time we will know exactly who we are reaching through the tournament advertisements. From this point we can compile a list of the players who are not being reached by the zine news network (people who attend tournaments only). The intention is to guarantee we reach everyone interested in attending tournaments. John Cain is collating the database and hopefully all zine editors will cooperate by sending him their subscriber lists. The database will be available for the editors or anyone else who intends to use it for hobby related purposes (but please, no life insurance salesmen need apply).

D.A.A. Newsletter 2 will appear next month with progress reports on all these matters.

HARRY KOLOTAS (conscripted D.A.A. President).

Diplomacy



SIMPSON

S P R I N G 1 9 0 9

ENDGAME PROPOSAL ACCEPTED!!

END OF GAME!!!

DRAW BETWEEN ALL SURVIVING
PLAYERS.

AUSTRIA 13

RUSSIA 5

ENGLAND 14

FRANCE 2

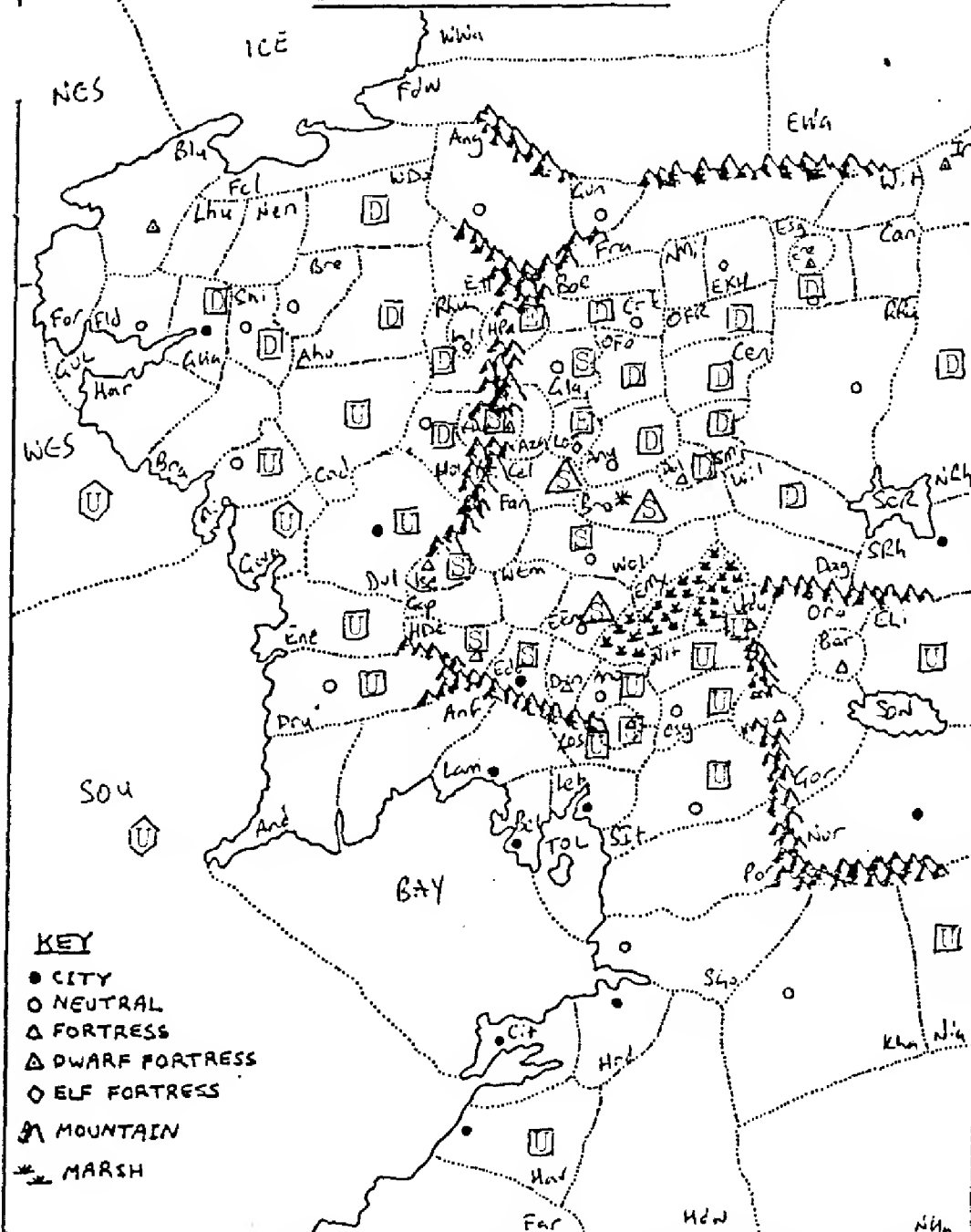
THANKYOU ALL FOR YOUR
EFFORTS.

COULD YOU PLEASE SEND ME
ENDGAME STATEMENTS AND ALL
HAVE A GOOD LIFE.

ENDPRESS: Mos-All: Well played
Rob and Pete. Thanks for
the game.

GM: Bill Brown 495 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell 3124

THE DOWNFALL OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS AND THE RETURN OF
THE KING: COOLBOP VARIANT



BARLIMAN BUTTERBUR ⑬

Halimath I, 3019

GM STUFF

PRESS: Dwa-Gand: If/when you've finished helping Umbar into Dun, or given up the attempt, how about bopping up to Khazad Dum and saying "Hi" to the Falrog?
Dwa-Saru: I think John D's "stab" had more to do with strategic realities than anything else - as such, it was hardly even a stab at all in my opinion. If John didn't turn on you, you'd be off and running, no looking back - you'd end up on over 30 centres, with John on about 15 - and I believe your victory criteria is less than 30 centres (without John supporting me, you'd wipe me easily).

NEXT TURN: HALIMATH II

NAZGUL is at:

GANDALF seen at: Ano

SARUMAN is at: Bro

ENDGAME PROPOSAL:

DRAW between all
~~Wizards~~ survivors.

GM: Bill Brown 495 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell VIC. 3124

SARUMAN(Irwin): A Edo S A Gap-HDe, 2A EEm-Dun, A Gap-HDe, A Dul-Ise, A Aza-Gla, A KDu H, A Cel-Wol, 2A Bro-Cel, 2A Wol+Saruman -Bro

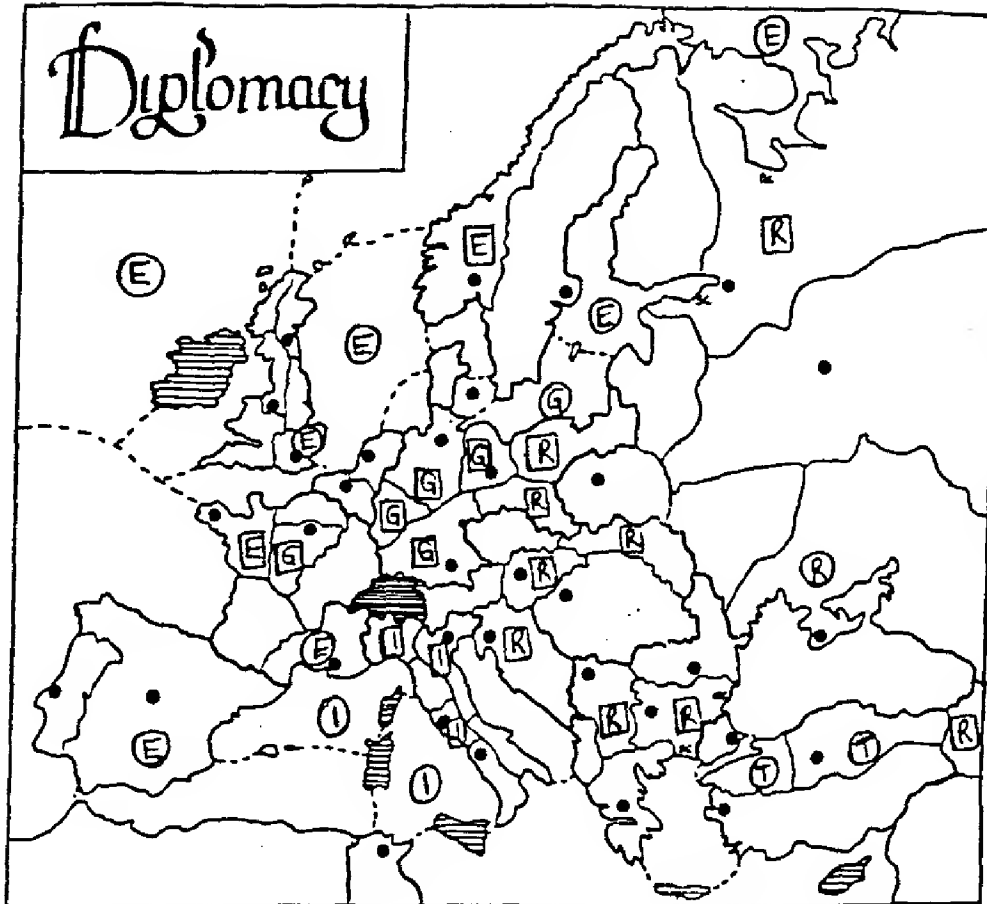
UMBAR(Dods): A Kha-Nia, A Nur-Eli, A Oro-Udu, A Ano-Dun, A Nit-Ano, A Osg-Los, A MMo-Osg, A Por-Sit, A Hrd-Hav, A And-Min, A Min-Cad, M SOU C A And-Min, A Cad-Dul, M Gwa S A Cad-Dul, A Ene S A Cad-Dul, A Dru S A Ene H, F WES H (unordered)

GANDALF(Perkins): Gandalf Ano S (U) A Ano-Dun with his hands tied behind his back, whilst drinking a glass of water (clever, huh!)
 ((Mild applause from a bored audience)).

DWARVES(Cain): A Nen-WDo, A Bre-Aho, A Aho-Rhu, A GHa S A Shi, A Shi S A Bre-Aho, A Iro-NRh, A Ere-Esg, A Rhu-Hol, A Dol S A Anu, A Cen S A Anu, A Anu S A RRu-SMi, A Wil S A RRu-SMi, A RRu-SMi, A Crk-Ofo, A OFR S A Crk-Ofo, A NMi-Crk

PRESS(Cont): Umbar-Saruman: Yes, Dip is for gentle persons (note the non-sexist reference) but you don't always have to play it like one. You missed the third option (beat the bastards and win the game). Gandalf-Umbar: How did you end up with coarse 'air anyway, did the breadcrusts thicken it as well as making it fuzzy?

AUTUMN 1905



France finally gets his just desserts for missing so many moves. Thanks for playing David. Steven hangs in as Turkey, but again misses an opportunity by failing to provide a build order for Smyrna. Russia seems to be without allies, and that could mean that the balance has now tipped in favour of England. Some critical moves coming up folks - let's be careful out there! Charles DID move to Melbourne, his new address is at the foot of the page.

GM: Frank Meerbach, 11 Holroyd Drive, EPPING VIC 3076.

Orders:

England: (Charles Rolph) F Mars H, F MAO-Spa(sc), A Bre S G A Bur-Par, F Swe-GoB, F Nwg-Bar, A Nwy-StP, F NAO H (u), F Nth H (u).
 France: (David Strong) NMR! A Par H.
 Germany: (Bill McKinley) F Bal S A Ber, A Kie S A Mun, A Ruh S A Mun, A Mun H, A Ber H, A Bur-Par.
 Italy: (Grant Schmarr) F Tyn-GoL, F Ion-Tyn, A Tus-Pie, A Rom S A Tus-Pie (NSU), F Bul(sc) H, A Ven H (u).
 Russia: (Greg Long) A Pru-Ber, A Sil S A Pru-Ber, A Boh-Vie, A Ukr-Gal, A Tyl-Tri, A Rum-Bul, A Ser S A Rum-Bul, A Arm-Smy, A StP-Nwy.
 Turkey: (Steven Bright) F Con-Smy, F Ank-Arm.

Retreats: French A Par disband NRO, Italian F Bul(sc) disband NRO.

Adjustments:

England: Bre, Edi, Lon, Lpl, Nwy, Por, Spa, Swe	+Mar	9 B F Lon.
France: Par		0 Bye Bye!
Germany: Bel, Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mar, Mun	+Par	7 NBP 1 owing.
Italy: Bul, Gre, Nap, Rom, Tun, Ven		5 B A Rom.
Russia: Ank, Bud, Mos, Rum, Ser, Sev, StP, Tri, Vie, War	+Bul	10 B F Sev.
Turkey: Con, Smy	+Ank	3 NBO! 1 owing.

Press:

Ber-All Q: What is the Moscow String Quartet? **A:** The Moscow Symphony Orchestra after a Western European tour. <<Nice one. Your turn Greg.>>
Mos-Lon So "when" is 1907 if I've read you correctly.
Mos-Rom An "each way bet" is not appropriate.
Mos-Con Is it true that you eat nails for breakfast? <<Rusty ones, if his build orders are anything to go by.>>
Mos-Ber I will try to relieve the pressure valve before the leak in the dyke. <<Such generosity just makes me feel all warm and fuzzy.>>
Mos-GM This game is not warming up. The Russian ambassadors are getting cool receptions wherever they go! <<Oh my, what a shame!>>

NEW ADDRESS: Charles Rolph, 4/192 Alma Road, EAST ST KILDA, VIC, 3183.

Diplomacy

SOBERS

15

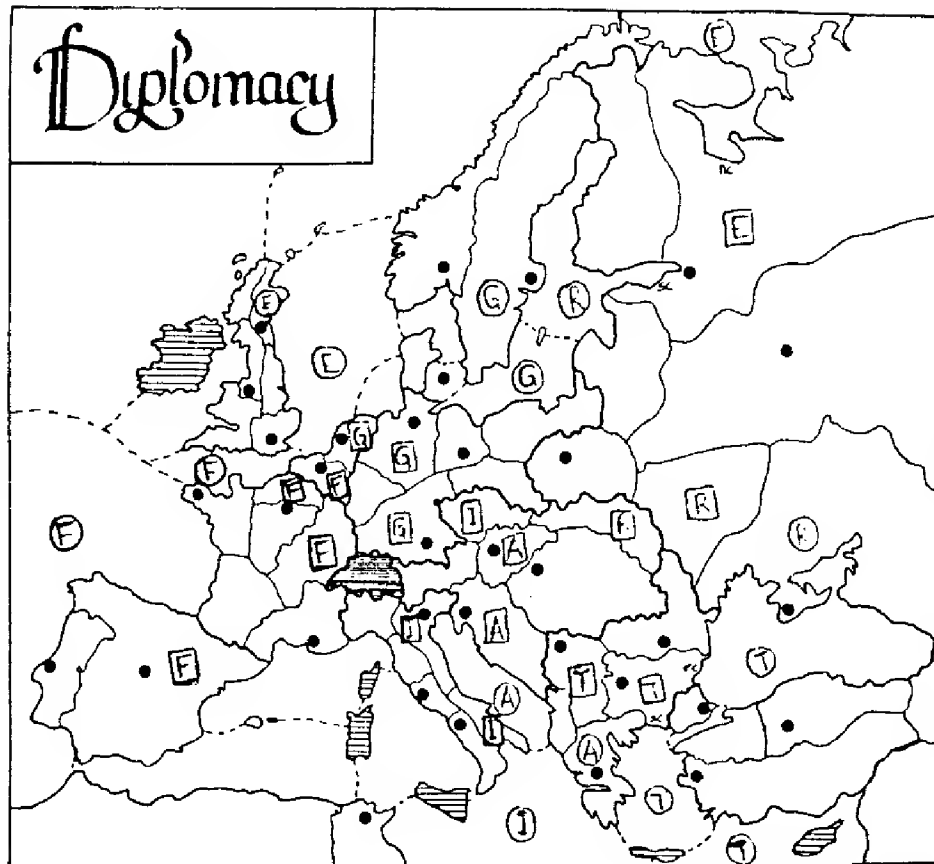
SPRING 1902

GM COMMENTS:

A surprising NMR from Tunku!
Dangerous but not terminal.

Since I am in a (literal)
screaming hurry, that is all
from me, except to say to
Bruce that It depends what
system one is used to. I find
the North American system (unique
to that part of the world)
hard to cope with myself.

deadline: monday 17 june 1991.



GM: John Cain, 76 Banool Rd, Balwyn, 3103, AUSTRALIA. +61-3-8362285 ah.

ORDERS:

AUSTRIA, Brandon Whyte, 96 Waiatarua Rd, Remuera, NEW ZEALAND.

A Vie-Tyr, A Bud-Tri, F Tri-Adr, F Gre-Ion, A Ser S A Bud-Tri.

ENGLAND, Michael Norrish, 3 Waiapapa Tce, Wellington 3, NEW ZEALAND.

A Nwy-StP, F Nwg-Bar, F Nth-Bel, F Edi-Nth.

FRANCE, Bruce Reiff, 432 Caldwell Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45216, USA.

F Bre-Eng, F Spa(sc)-MAO, A Por-Spa, A Mar-Bur, A Bel S A mar-Bur, A Par-Pic.

GERMANY, Stuart Eves, 24 Birch Rd, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berks, RG7 3LT, UK.

F Den-Swe, F Ber-Bal, A Hol-H, A Kie S A Hol, A Mun-H.

ITALY, Paul Yovich, 20/75 ley st, Como, 6152, AUSTRALIA.

A Tun-Apu, F Ion C A Tun-Apu, A Tyl-Boh, A Ven-Tyl.

RUSSIA, Tunku Yaacob, 7C Black 3, Highland Twrs, 6800 Ampang, Selangor, MALAYSIA.

NMR! A surprise, as Tunku is normally very careful and sends me multiple copies of his orders, however it is 3 days after the deadline and I have nothing from him for this game, so I guess something has gone astray somewhere.

TURKEY, Neil Kendrick, 34 Eileen Rd, Yardley Wood, Birmingham, B11 4HX, UK.

A Rum-Ser, A Bul S A Rum-Ser, F Ank-Bla, F Con-Aeg, F Smy-EMS.

RETREATS: none! AUS A Ser disb, NRO!

PRESS:

GER-ITA: If you move away from Mun I'll be happy to consider your requests.

GER-ENG: I Flew to the USA on 15/4. At that time you had not written with any requests for support so i was unable to offer any!

FRANCE: I really hate this International system of builds and retreats. Really I do.

LON-BER: The Kaiser is a wily bird and the English owl is probably no match for the German Hawk. Crawn into a sea of troubles already; let us just hope that it isn't one of misfortune as well. The die is cast, come what may, my cards are played.

ENG-FRA: Do nor worry, I have other fish to fry.

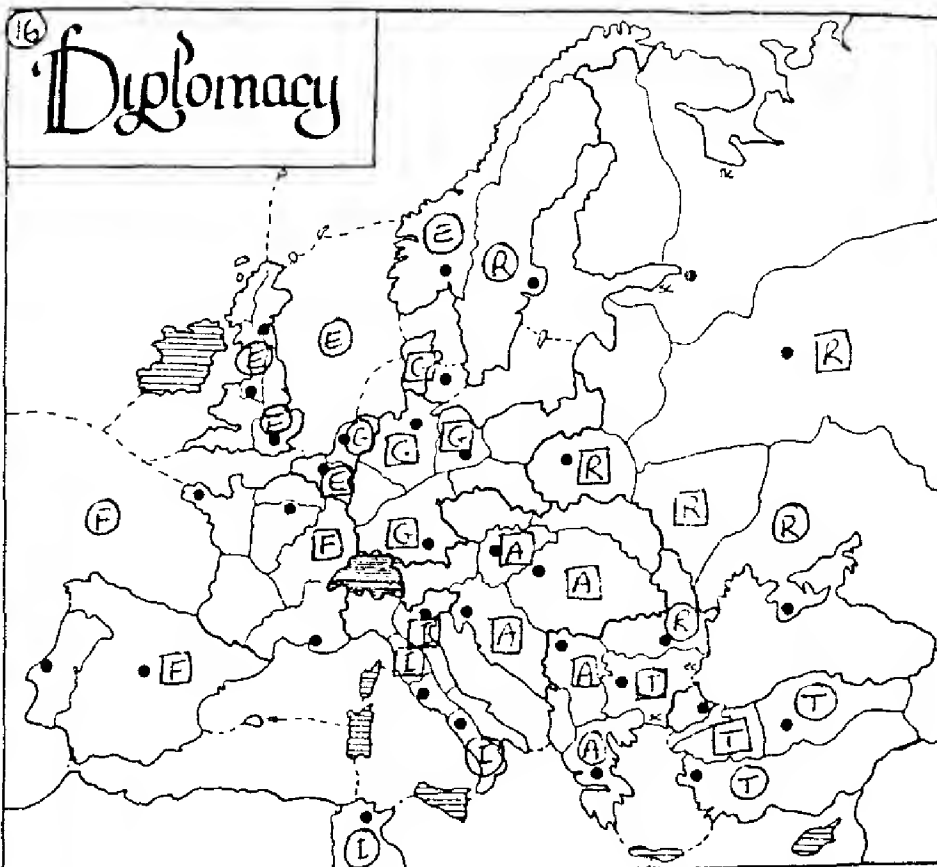
GER-FRA: It is agreed then?

AUS-ITA: Please write. Pretty please?

AUS-RUS: I told you so.

AUS-TUR: ??? It made little sense, but wot the heck!

CON-VIE: If you have ordered correctly, we will swap centres, or at worst, you will gain one in Aut 02. BN



BENAUD

AUTUMN 1901.

GM COMMENTS:

Oh dear, TWO Autumn 1901 NMRs!
Almost enough to make me hold the game over, but not quite -- people must pay off their actions. I'm sure I haven't had orders from either of these chaps...

STANDBY FOR FRANCE:

Jeff Perkins
6 Garnet Dr
Salisbury E, 5109.

John Cain

CM: John Cain, 76 Banool Rd, Balwyn, 3103. (03) 836 2285.

ORDERS:

AUSTRIA, Theo Momatas, 7/126 Walker St, Waterloo, 2017.
A Bud-Tri, A Ser S F Alb-Gre, F Alb-Gre.
ENGLAND, Peter Harris, 32 Shadlow Cres, ST Clair, 2759.
F Nwg-Nwy, A Edi-Bel, F Nth C A Edi-Bel.
FRANCE, Gavin Bennett, PO Box 205, Paraburdoo, 6754.
NMR! F MAO-H, A Bur-H, A Spa-H.
GERMANY, Grant Schmaar, 4 Burwood Pl, Cabramatta West, 2166.
NMR! F Hol-h, A Kie-H, ARuh-H.
ITALY, Bill Brown, 495 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, 3124.
A Ven-Tus, A Apu-Ven, F Ion-Tun.
RUSSIA, Charles Rolph, 4/192 Alma Rd, East St Kilda, 3183.
F COB-SWe, A Ukr S F Sev-Rum, F Sev-Rum, A Mos-H.
TURKEY, Liam Cosgrave, 25 Pullan Pl, Greenwood 6024.
A Bul-Rum, A Con-Bul, F Ank-Bla.

HOLD IT!!!

German orders found masquerading as press for the game Hutton. Herr Schmaar sent home in disgrace!!!
Cancel Grant's NMR.
Orders: F Hol S A Edi-Bel, A Ruh-Mun, A Kie-Den.

HAS: Kie,Ber,Mun,Hol,Den.
Build: A Ber, A Kie.

ADJUSTMENTS:

AUS: Tri,Bud,Vie,Ser,Gre, (5) Build A Vie, A Bud.
ENG: Lon,Lpl,Edi,Nwy,Bel () Build F Lon, F Lpl.
FRA: Par,Spa,Mar,Bre (4) NBO, 1 owing.
~~GER: Ber,Kie,Mun,Hol (4) NBO, 1 owing.~~
ITA: Nap,Ven,Rom,Tun (4) Build Nap.
RUS: Mos,War,StP,Sev,Rum,Swe. (6) Build F Sev, A War.
TUR: Con,Bul,Smy,Ank (4) Build F Smy.

PRESS:

ROM-LON: Ciao Bomber!

LON-BER: Thanks ever so much for the invite to the Oktoberfest. I plan to be there, and I see Gavin is already on his way! One thing though. Could you lend me a knife? Mine are all in use at teh moment (peeling potatoes in Ireland, dont you know).

OTHER SEXIST STATEMENTS SECTION: A woman is like a field... do what you will in your field -- The Koran. Woman, your plaice is at home -- anon witty fisherman.

SPAIN-ALL part 2: The Llama. The Llama is a quadrupe which lives in big rivers like the Amazon, It has two ears , a hear, a forehead and a beak for eating honey. But it is provided with fins for swimming... Llamas are larger than frogs... Llamas are dangerous, so if you see one where people are swimming, you shout: Look Out, There Are Llamsa.

Rom-Ber: LOOK OUT, THERE AR\$

[illegible]

GM: John Cain, 76 Banool Rd Balwyn, 3103. (03) 836 2285.

CARTHAGE, Shane Beck, 14 Anglo Crt, Mooroolbark, 3138.

EGYPT, Pete Chalmers, 16 Steele St, Caulfield South, 3162.

MACEDON, Jeff Perkins, 6 Garnet Dr, Salisbury East, 5109.

ROME, Bill Brown, 495 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, 3124.

SYRIA, Les Hall, 240 Flaxmere Ave, Hastings, NEW ZEALAND.

ADJUSTMENTS :

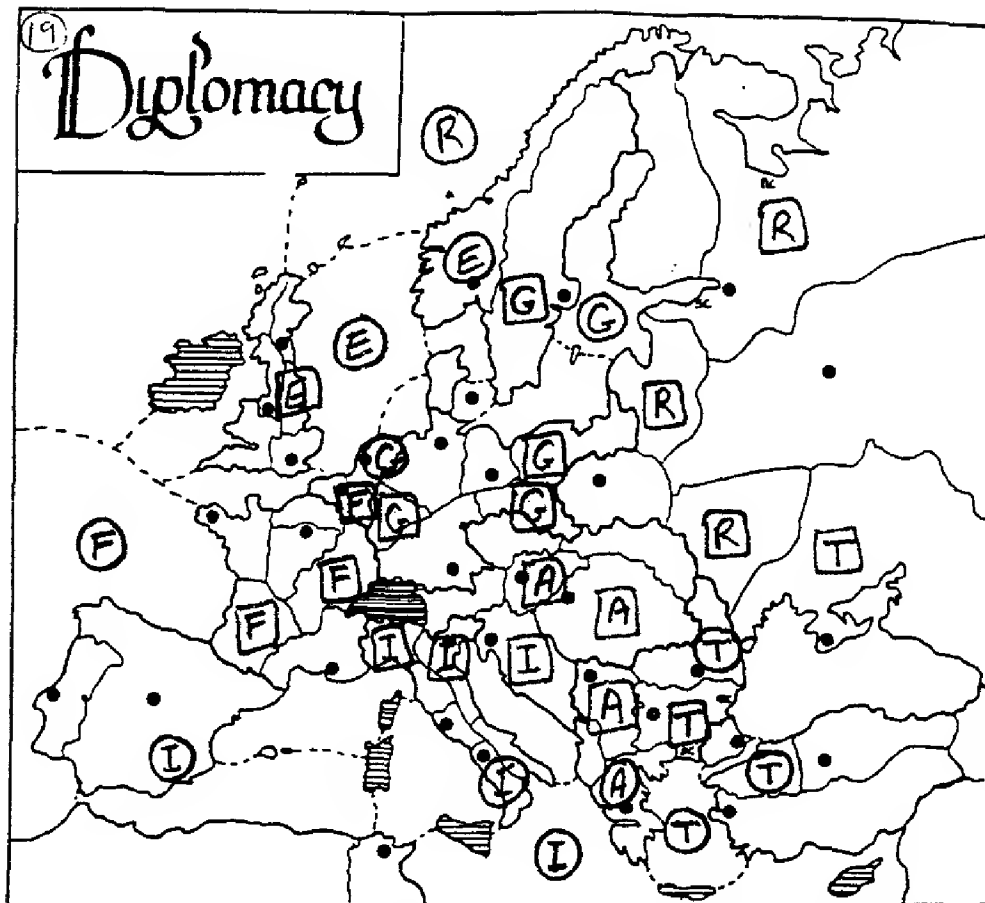
EGY: ALX, Pto, Cyp, Cha + Phi, Cre (7) Build F Cyr, A Alx, plus Sic on loan: Build A pto.

ROM: ROM, Nea, Bru, (Sic), Cis, Sar, + Mas, Sag (9) But Sic on loan to Egy; Bld F Nea, A Bru.

SYR: ANT, Sel, Arm + Pon, Cap (6) Build A Sid, A Sel.

PRESS: Syr-Egy: Never Fear, ISS is a Syrian Lake. Keep Cyp as it seems you will need it against Carthage. // Car-Rom: Received your emissary with enthusiasm. He makes a good rowing slave in our fleets. (Thanks for the articles. We'll definitely have a game next VDC. // Untitled: Is the Roman consul Billius so-called because of a Macedonian/Syrian/Carthageian plot to poison him? // 'Macks" to 'Fair O': I have this funny feeling you're going to 'ex-crete' us. // Helvetic Herald: The Macedonian Empire has come down with a serious case of Bucephelus and is reportedly in a serious condition according to reporter Abraxus Annapopoulous. The Empire's Cretian physicians only comment was 'Bull'. // Pel-Pete: I have this funny feeling... // Pel-Rom: I have a vision, that we shall learn from our mistakes, or repeat them in the VFAS game... // Somewhere in Spain: ROME TRIBUNE: CCXXLIX bc -- REFUGEES FLEEE SPAIN. Carthagian atrocities against the Spanish population have triggered mass migrations northwards to the security of Roman held Gaul. The Roman Government today announced all steps would be taken to alleviate their suffering. // Cato-Senate: Delenda est Carthage.

GM COMMENTS: AARRrrghhhhhh!!!! (Not this game, just everythingelse).



HUTTON

spring 1903

PRESS:(cont)

Mos-Ber: "Tsar Glenivitch got what he deserved -- a weekend away with Bob Howard!
BILL-GEORGE: How boring, as bad as Tribe Vibes.

Sorry Bill, nor room or time for your long section of extra press. Still, I enjoyed it more than the plebs in this game would have.

GRANT: Please send orders for separate games on separate bits of paper -- you were 2mm away from NMRing in Benaud bnecause I mis-read your orders for that game as Press for Hutton!!!!

GM: John Cain, 75 Banooool Rd , Balwyn, 3103. (03) 836 2285 ah.

ORDERS:

AUSTRIA, Grant Schmaar, 4 Burwood Pl, Cabramatta West, 2166.

F Alb-Gre, A Gre-Ser, A Bud S A Gal-Vie, A Gal-vie.

ENGLAND, David maken, 3 Oak St, South Cronulla, 2230.

A Lon-Yor, F Ska-Nwy, F Nth S F Ska-Nwy.

FRANCE, F MAO-Spa(sc), A Gas-Mar, A Pic-Bur, A Bel-h.

played by Adrian Appleyard, 254 Padstow Rd, Eight Mile Plains, 4113.

GERMANY, Jeff Perkins, 6 Garnet Dr, Salisbury E, 5109.

A Kie-Ruh, F Hol S F A Bel, A Ber-Pru, A Mun-Sil, F Bal-GOB, A Swe S E F Ska-Nwy.

ITALY, Paul Castle, 437 Payneham Rd, Felixstow, 5070.

F Nap S F Ion, F Ion S A A Gre-H (NSO), A Pie-Mar, F Spa(sc) S A Pie-Mar, A Ven S A Tri, A Tri-H.

RUSSIA, Bill Brown, 495 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, 3124.

F Nwy S G F Hol-Nth (NSO), A StP S F Nwy, A War-Lvn, A Ukr S T F Rum, F Sev-Bla.

TURKEY, Paul Yovich, 20/75 Ley St, Como, 6152.

A Arm-Sev, F Rum S A Arm-Sev, A Bul s F Rum, F Con-Bla, F Aeg S A F Alb-Gre.

RETREATS: Rus F Nwy ret Nwg, Rus F Sev disb, NRP.

PRESS:

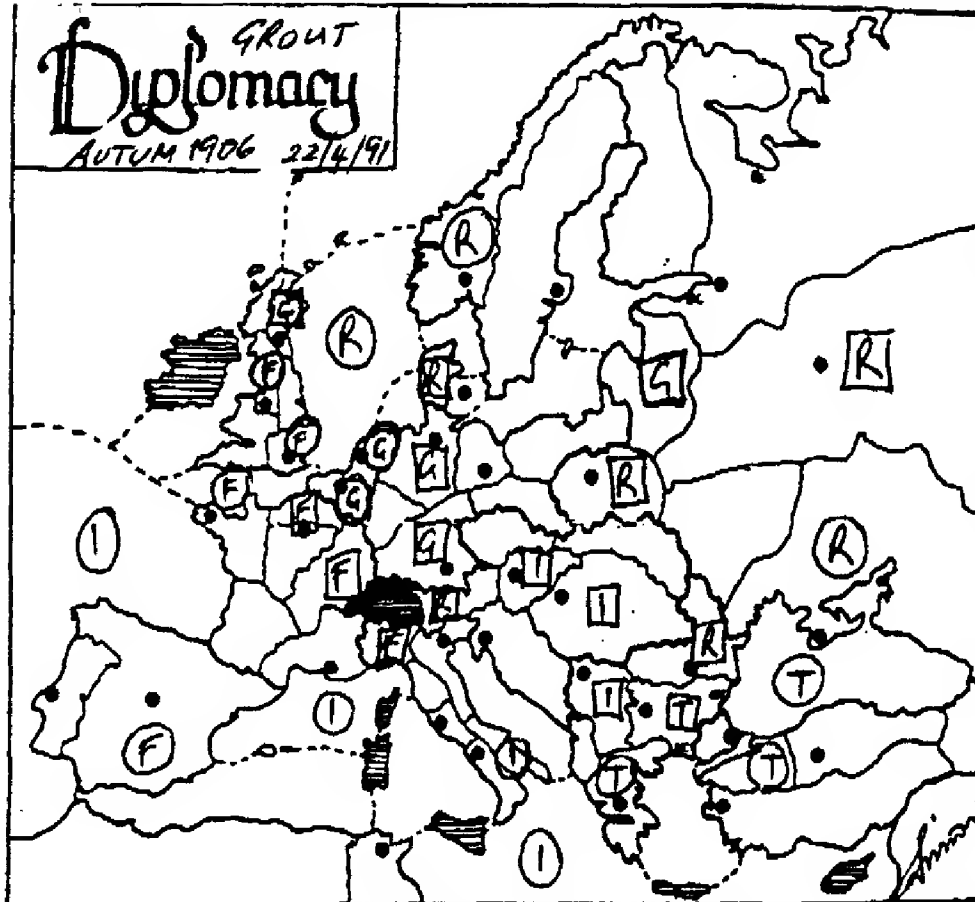
CON-BER: Most Culture is ancient in its source and I'm sure I could get a lot more ancient than Bob Dylan if you want me to. // CCC 3 was from Billy Bragg's "Waiting for the Great Leap Forward". // CCC 4: Because a world has need of your humility, your great teaching and your Machiavellian scheming."

VEN-LON: I hear the French Riverina has lovely weather at this time of year.

ITA-RUS: Take the left flank, there are less lemmings underfooot.

ITA-TUR: Can we talk? Your shipyards are overworking! // BER-VIE: The old fake retreat trick... ((Nothing fake about this...)) // BART-ALL: Kill Con. // BER-LON: Huh?

VIE-BER: Oops! ((Is that for all those NMRs in other games???)) // VIE-BER: It sort of works on the Italians but their cologne is abit stronger. personally I prefer menage to chloroform but each to his own. // DIPLOMACY SAYINGS #3: Getting eliminated: It better befits a man to laugh at life that lament over it.-- Seneca. // RADIO R-U-S-S-I-A: On the way down at number 6 is Grant'the star' Schmaar with his reworking of the old Ultravox hit "Vienna".



Ber-Russia: Oh where, oh where shall I go?

- A) Neil Kendrick, 34 Eileen Rd, Yardley Wood, Birmingham, B11 4MX, UK.
 B) Shane Beck, 14 Anglo Crt, Mooroolbark, 3138.
 C) Jeff Perkins, 6 Garnet Dr, Salisbury East, 5109.
 D) Theo Thomatas, 7/126 Walker St, Waterloo, 2017.
 E) Liam Cosgrave, 25 Pullan Place, Greenwood, 6024.
 F) Frank Meerbach, 11 Holroyd Dr, Epping, 3076.
 G) Bill Brown, 495 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, 3124.
 H) Adrian Appleyard, 254 Padstow Rd, Eight Mile Plains, 4113.

Standby: John Cain, 76 Banool Rd, Balwyn, 3103.

GM: Ken Sproat, 14 Meaby St, Jan Juc, 3228.

SKUMBALL GAME START											
Manager Team	Neil Kendrick (A)	Shane Beck (B)	Jeff Perkins (C)	Theo Thomatas (D)	Player No.	Neil Kendrick (A)	Shane Beck (B)	Jeff Perkins (C)	Theo Thomatas (D)	Player No.	Neil Kendrick (A)
	Def. Attack	Def. Attack	Def. Attack	Def. Attack		Def. Attack	Def. Attack	Def. Attack	Def. Attack		Def. Attack
1	2	4	3	3	1	2	4	3	3	1	2
2	5	4	2	10	2	5	4	2	10	2	5
3	3	10	4	5	3	3	10	4	5	3	3
4	1	6	2	4	4	1	6	2	4	4	1
5	3	9	3	2	5	3	9	3	2	5	3
6	5	10	3	3	6	5	10	3	3	6	5
7	5	6	1	10	7	5	6	1	10	7	5
8	4	9	4	5	8	4	9	4	5	8	4
9	1	7	5	10	9	1	7	5	10	9	1
10	4	8	4	7	10	4	8	4	7	10	4
11	3	6	4	10	11	3	6	4	10	11	3
12	4	9	4	8	12	4	9	4	8	12	4
13	3	6	2	8	13	3	6	2	8	13	3
14	1	9	4	7	14	1	9	4	7	14	1
15	4	6	4	6	15	4	6	4	6	15	4

Manager Team	Liam Cosgrave (E)	Frank Meerbach (F)	Bill Brown (G)	Adrian Appleyard (H)	Player No.	Liam Cosgrave (E)	Frank Meerbach (F)	Bill Brown (G)	Adrian Appleyard (H)	Player No.
	Def. Attack	Def. Attack	Def. Attack	Def. Attack		Def. Attack	Def. Attack	Def. Attack	Def. Attack	
1	1	2	4	1	1	1	2	4	1	1
2	3	1	5	5	2	3	1	5	5	2
3	4	3	1	10	3	4	3	1	10	3
4	5	5	3	8	4	5	5	3	8	4
5	1	2	4	8	5	1	2	4	8	5
6	3	3	4	10	6	3	3	4	10	6
7	2	1	3	10	7	2	1	3	10	7
8	4	2	3	7	8	4	2	3	7	8
9	1	3	1	7	9	1	3	1	7	9
10	5	2	1	7	10	5	2	1	7	10
11	3	5	4	7	11	3	5	4	7	11
12	4	4	3	8	12	4	4	3	8	12
13	5	4	2	6	13	5	4	2	6	13
14	3	5	2	10	14	3	5	2	10	14
15	5	2	1	10	15	5	2	1	10	15

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7
A V B	D V A	A V F	H V A	A V C	G V A	A V E
C V D	F V C	C V H	B V C	H V B	F V H	G V C
E V F	H V E	E V B	D V E	D V F	B V D	H V D
G V H	B V G	G V D	F V G	E V G	C V E	B V F

This Rounds Big Games

Neil Kendrick(A) v Shane Beck(B)	2 to 1	Jeff Perkins(C) v Theo Thomatas	2 to 1
Liam Cosgrave(E) v Frank Meerbach(F)	2 to 1	Bill Brown(G) v Adrian Appleyard(H)	2 to 1
Draw 2 to 1		Draw 2 to 1	

GM : Remember to Name Your Players and Team

1991 Victorian Diplomacy Championships

(21)

A disappointing field of 25 players arrived on time to start the first round on Friday morning. Despite promises from the Conquest organizers that the queuing problems of past conventions would be minimal or non-existent, the queues remained! In fact, it was impossible to get some of the players registered in time for the first round, and also impossible to get an up to date list of entered players at 9 am. Maybe next year ...

Common sense prevailed, and we took some last minute entries ourselves, but the resulting paperwork shuffle between me and the Conquest organizers left me out of pocket on behalf of one or two unidentified players.

The first round did get started just a touch after 9.30 am, which certainly beat the efforts of previous Victorian Championships. Paul Smith played in two games and Greg Calder came in from the multi-boardgames tournament (where he had a bye) to play in one game.

Game 1 Anzac Cove 29/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12s	Score
Austria	Shane Beck	5	5	3	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4
England	Andrew Pass	4	5	5	5	6	8	5	5	6	7	8	8	18.6
France	Greg Calder *	6	6	6	5	5	6	7	7	8	7	6	5	16.3
Germany	Rohan Flavelle	4	5	5	5	5	4	3	4	0	-	-	-	3.5
Italy	Jill Mentiplay	4	4	6	7	8	8	9	8	9	11	10	11	23.4
Russia	Steven Bagshaw	5	5	5	7	7	6	8	8	10	9	10	10	22.0
Turkey	George Smirnow	4	4	4	4	3	2	2	2	1	0	-	-	2.6

* Frank Meerbach (GM) played for Greg Calder from 1905.

Anzac Cove featured a strong Russia/Italy alliance between Steve Bagshaw and Jill Mentiplay. Greg Calder had to drop out at lunchtime to play in his other event, so I stood in for his France. With help from Andrew Pass (England) we eliminated Rohan Flavelle (Germany) and saw Steve and Jill complete the annihilation of Austria (Shane Beck) and Turkey (George Smirnow). When Turkey disappeared, it was two against two, but their two were stronger than ours! Fortunately a draw was agreed before France got eliminated. Jill won the Best Italy award for her performance in this game.

Game 2 Hell Spit 29/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	Score
Austria	Michael Chau	4	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4
England	Luke Hoban	4	4	4	4	1	0	-	-	-	-	1.7
France	Steve Gould	5	5	5	6	7	9	8	8	7	4	15.4
Germany	Michael Hopton	6	6	5	5	4	1	0	-	-	-	2.7
Italy	Ken Sproat	5	6	6	4	3	2	0	-	-	-	2.6
Russia	Bill Brown	5	6	7	7	10	12	13	12	13	15	30.0
Turkey	Harry Kolotas	5	7	7	8	9	10	13	14	14	15	30.2

Hell Spit featured one of the outstanding alliance performances of the tournament, when Harry Kolotas and Bill Brown demonstrated just how powerful the dreaded steamroller can be. Onlookers were predicting stabs just about every move, but the two stuck together to the end and reaped the rewards by becoming the first round leaders. Only Steve Gould (France) was able to survive at the end, after getting to 9 centres by 1906. Victims in order of demise were Michael Chau (Austria) - a very rapid exit in 1902, Luke Hoban (England), Michael Hopton (Germany) and Ken Sproat (Italy). This game earned Harry the Best Turkey award for the tournament, while Bill's Russia was best until Michael Hopton's win in Gaba Tepe.

Game 3 Shrapnel Gully 29/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	Score
Austria	Albert Chen	4	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	0.75
England	Craig Sedgwick	4	5	6	6	6	7	8	9	20.375
France	Robert Stephenson	6	6	6	6	9	9	10	9	21.625
Germany	Lachlan Olive	5	5	4	1	0	-	-	-	1.875
Italy	Peter Pascoe	4	5	5	5	3	3	2	2	10.625
Russia	Rob Wessels	6	6	8	10	10	9	9	9	22.375
Turkey	Paul Smith (GM)	4	4	5	6	6	6	5	5	15.125

Shrapnel Gully proved to be one of the tightest games of the tournament. Albert Chen became the second Austrian player to be eliminated quickly, and Lachlan Olive's Germany soon followed. Peter Pascoe's Italy hung on to survive with two centres, right between the alliance of Rob Stephenson (France) and Craig Sedgwick (England) and the rampaging Russia of Rob Wessels. Paul Smith seemed to have an on again, off again alliance with Rob W as Turkey.

Game 4 Lone Pine 29/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08s	Score
Austria	George Majer	5	5	5	4	4	4	2	2	10.875
England	Allan Parker	5	6	6	7	9	9	10	12	25.0
France	John Cain	5	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	25.25
Germany	Emlyn Collins	4	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1.125
Italy	Paul Smith (GM)	4	4	4	4	3	2	0	-	2.625
Russia	Alex Smirnow	6	6	7	6	3	4	5	2	11.875
Turkey	Adrian Fegan	4	4	5	5	6	5	6	6	16.125

Lone Pine featured an even better England & France alliance between Allan Parker and John Cain. Emlyn Collins was quickly eliminated as Germany, Paul Smith followed after lunch with Italy, and George Majer (Austria) and Alex Smirnow (Russia) each did well to hang on to two centres at the end. Adrian Fegan never got past 6 centres as Turkey but still had that many when the Western steamroller agreed to the draw.

Friday evening.

Most of the interstate players and Victorian regulars went to John Cain's place after the first round to partake in the usual fun of board games (other than Diplomacy!) and eating and drinking. I went by there after midnight (after typing up the day's results) to pick up the Bendigo boys (Paul and Luke) who were staying at my house for the weekend. When we arrived home at about 1.30 am, we discovered that I had been the victim of a burglar! He or she or they had broken in through the laundry window and had stolen the video, micro-wave oven, a pair of binoculars and a camera. In the process they had turned the place up-side-down in their search for valuables, but amazingly they missed a bag of cash that had more than \$200 in it! It was found in the middle of the floor amongst all the other items tipped out of the cupboards. The police were called, and they examined the place, and made arrangements for a detective to come around in the morning to take fingerprints. Although they were cooperative and efficient in their duties, the delay in the morning meant that I had to miss the start of the second round. As I had already typed up the draw for the round I gave that to Paul Smith and sent him in with Peter to get the round started on time. When I arrived at 9.15, the games had only just started. Some people had heard about the burglary, and quizzed me about it. What I want to know is where were they between the hours of 7 pm and midnight on Friday 29th March? So far the culprits have not been found, but we are hopeful that the evidence they left behind will nail them when they do get caught.

Saturday.

Game 5 Baby 700 30/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	Score
Austria	Harry Kolotas	5	6	6	7	5	4	2	1	0	4.0
England	Alex Smirnow	5	5	7	7	7	9	10	12	14	27.444
France	Jill Mentiplay	4	5	4	4	4	2	1	0	-	2.667
Germany	Craig Sedgwick	5	6	7	8	9	9	11	13	14	28.111
Italy	Shane Beck	4	4	5	5	5	6	5	2	0	4.0
Russia	George Majer	5	4	2	1	1	0	-	-	-	1.444
Turkey	Michael Hopton	4	4	3	2	3	4	5	6	6	15.111

Baby 700 featured a very strong alliance performance between Alex Smirnow's England and Craig Sedgwick's Germany. For most of the game, the North Sea was empty! Harry Kolotas got off to a good start as Austria, helping to eliminate George Majer's Russia. Harry and Shane Beck (Italy) managed to reduce Michael Hopton's Turkey to just two centres, before the England/Germany alliance arrived at Harry's northern front and started to squeeze him out of the game. Jill Mentiplay put up some brave resistance as France but in the end to no avail as nothing could break Alex and Craig's alliance. Shane and Harry were eliminated the year after Jill, while Michael finally broke out of his corner to get to 6 centres and take part in the three-way draw. This game gave Craig the Best Germany award.

Game 6 Chunuk Bair 30/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	Score
Austria	Bill Brown	5	6	6	9	8	9	21.167
England	Frank Meerbach(GM)	4	5	5	6	6	7	17.5
France	Rob Wessels	5	6	7	9	10	10	22.833
Germany	George Smirnow	6	4	4	1	1	1	8.833
Italy	Andrew Pass	4	3	2	1	0	-	1.667
Russia	Albert Chen	5	7	8	6	5	3	13.667
Turkey	Luke Hoban	4	3	2	2	4	4	12.167

Chunuk Bair had Rob Wessels as France and George Smirnow as Germany. I made up the numbers on this board as England, and was able to work with Rob for some of the time to gain some centres against George. However, Rob sent a fleet to visit my home centres via NAO and I had to switch to all out defense. Fortunately for my position Rob was sufficiently distracted by the goings on in Italy (played by Andrew Pass) to commit all of his forces to my area, so I was able to hold him out. Meanwhile Bill Brown (Austria) began to dominate the eastern half of the board by getting bits of both Russia (Albert Chen) and Turkey (Luke Hoban). Albert got off to a good start but wasn't able to secure the long-term alliance he really needed to figure in the finish. George proved to be slippery enough to hang on to one centre when the players decided to call it a draw - which surprised me, as I thought that both Bill and Rob could have gained some more centres.

Game 7 The Nek 30/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	Score
Austria	John Cain	5	3	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	1.111
England	Paul Smith (GM)	4	3	1	1	1	0	-	-	-	1.111
France	Steven Bagshaw	6	6	8	8	10	14	16	17	17	33.333
Germany	Karl Hemphill	5	6	5	4	1	0	-	-	-	2.333
Italy	Adrian Fegan	4	5	6	8	9	11	10	10	9	22.0
Russia	Peter Pascoe	6	6	7	5	5	4	3	1	1	10.222
Turkey	Ken Sproat	4	5	6	7	8	5	5	6	7	17.889

The Nek featured the best individual performance of the day when Steve Bagshaw (France) demolished the opposition to get to 17 centres. Adrian Fegan (Italy) was able to coordinate a stalemate line which included Peter Pascoe's last Russian unit and some help from Ken Sproat's Turkey. Karl Hemphill (Germany), filling in from the board games competition, was eliminated along with John Cain (Austria) and Paul Smith (England). This terrific result put Steve in the lead in the tournament, taking him past Bill Brown. The day 1 leader Harry Kolotas slipped quite a bit, thanks to his elimination in *Baby 700*.

Game 8 Steele's Post 30/3/91

	01	02	03	04	05	06	Score
Austria Steve Gould	5	7	7	8	11	13	26.5
England Lachlan Olive	5	6	6	6	7	8	19.333
France Allan Parker	5	5	5	6	3	1	10.167
Germany Paul Smith (GM)	4	5	5	4	2	2	10.667
Italy Rohan Flavelle	4	3	2	1	1	1	8.0
Russia Emlyn Collins	3	1	1	0	-	-	0.833
Turkey Robert Stephenson	5	7	8	9	10	9	22.0

Steele's Post featured a Turkey/Austria alliance between Rob Stephenson and Steve Gould. Both players were comfortably placed when the draw was agreed in 1906. Other than the supply centre chart, I don't have too many details on this game. Lachlan Olive obviously took advantage of his position well away from the eastern alliance to get to a solid 8 centres as England. Was there a stab by Steve on Rob at the end? I don't know, you'll have to ask them. In any case, it was sufficient to earn *Best Austria* for Steve.

Saturday Evening.

The Diplomacy Dinner was held at Toto's in Lygon Street. I took some time to type out the standings on the computer at the convention, but because of my unfamiliarity with the particular machine, was unable to get a good copy printed. I gave that up as a bad joke and went to join the crowd at Toto's, only to find that our booking for 22 now had 26 people at the one long table. Only 17 people had been kind enough to let us know that they were coming, so I was a bit annoyed to be forced to sit away from the main table. Why can't players be more considerate of the problems of the organizers? It turned out all right for me as I had a delightful evening talking to Karl Hemphill and Vivienne, and some of the other Dip players came over from time to time to annoy the hell out of us. Presumably from the look of disgust on the waitress' face, a good time was had by all! Once again the main crowd went to John's afterwards for some more gaming and drinking - the staying power of some of the Dip players is almost as amazing as their recuperative powers!

Sunday.

We finally managed to get a round started at 9 am - this has got to be some kind of Australian record! Unfortunately I had overlooked the fact that Andrew Pass had told me that he would not be playing on this day, leaving one of the games two players short while another had seven players in it! Naturally enough, it made sense to shift one of those seven to the five-player board, but this was not as easy as it sounded, due to the way the draw was structured. The number one rule for pairings was to avoid having the same two people play together in three different games, so this prevented me from moving the only player who was prepared to move. One could not fault the other players for not wanting to move, as negotiations for Spring 1901 were already well under way. In the end I had no choice but to join Paul in one game (*The Sphinx*) - more of this later.

Game 9 Gaba Tepe 31/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	Score
Austria	Michael Chau	5	6	7	4	1	0	-	-	-	2.556
England	George Smirnow	5	4	5	7	9	9	12	13	14	22.667
France	Adrian Fegan	4	4	3	1	0	-	-	-	-	1.333
Germany	Robert Stephenson	5	7	8	8	7	4	1	0	-	4.444
Italy	George Majer	4	4	5	7	9	10	8	4	2	7.889
Russia	Michael Hopton	5	6	6	7	8	11	13	17	18	53.111
Turkey	Steven Bagshaw	4	3	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.778

Gaba Tepe was the only full board for the round. Looking at the draw the previous night I thought to myself that this was set up for a Steve Bagshaw tournament victory. After all, he was leading the tournament, was surrounded by players who were all running in the bottom half of the field, while in the west three of the hobby heavyweights shared England, France and Germany! How wrong can you get! Michael Hopton played a magnificent game, beginning by organizing Austrian and Italian help to eliminate Steve by 1903. Meanwhile Rob Stephenson's Germany soared to 8 centres. Rob and George (England) formed an uneasy alliance to deal with Adrian (France) with an apparent arrangement to allow Michael some slack in Scandinavia while he was busy putting the skids under Steve. When that task was completed, Michael took out his lesser allies - first Michael Chau (Austria) using George Majer's help, and then the stab on Italy took him to 13 centres with several more at his mercy. Meanwhile Rob had found his central position too tough to defend, and he collapsed against a combined attack from George Smirnow and Michael Hopton. By the time Michael completed the stab on the Italians, he had gone to 17 and could no longer be stopped from winning the game, having established himself past the stalemate line. George Smirnow made a belated effort to get back and stop Michael, but to no avail as Michael scored a very impressive victory - the only one of the tournament. From a position of 17th prior to this round, the win put Michael into genuine contention for first place; it all depended on the outcome of the other games.

Game 10 Plugge's Plateau 31/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	Score
Austria	Rohan Flavelle	5	5	6	8	8	8	7	7	6	6	6	17.6
England	Steve Gould	4	5	5	6	6	7	9	12	13	13	16	29.0
France	Frank Meerbach (GM)	5	5	5	4	3	3	2	1	1	1	0	3.0
Germany	Albert Chen	5	5	6	6	8	6	6	6	5	4	2	12.7
Italy	Bill Brown	4	4	3	1	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	1.4
Russia	Jill Mentiplay	5	6	6	6	5	5	6	4	4	5	5	15.2
Turkey	Peter Pascoe	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	13.9

Plugge's Plateau had Steve Gould as England and Bill Brown as Italy as the major contenders. I played one of my two French positions for the day in this game, but failed to pick the right ally at the start when I misordered a support for Steve instead of supporting Albert Chen's Germany into Belgium. This had the effect of pushing Steve and Albert into an alliance with each other, which eventually succeeded in eliminating me. Meanwhile Bill Brown had opened with a Lepanto against Peter Pascoe's Turkey, but he was stabbed by Rohan Flavelle (Austria) just before he was able to press home his own attack on Turkey. Bill had left his home country very open, and was unable to recover from this set-back. Jill's Russia and Peter's Turkey were finally forced into a defensive alliance (after trying to stab each other for most of the game) against the rampaging Steve Gould who had successfully stabbed his ally Albert. Rohan Flavelle had some ups and downs but managed to hang on to most of his centres at the end, despite an uneasy relationship with Russia and Turkey. A very impressive effort by Steve Gould, and some nice defence at the end particularly from Jill and Peter. Later on

Steve found out that he had been pipped by a fraction of a point for best England, a fraction of a point for second place in the tournament and he lost the player's choice award on a countback! Most unfortunate, considering his fine play.

Game 11 Quinn's Post 31/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	Score
Austria	Luke Hoban	5	6	7	8	8	13	25.833
England	Shane Beck	4	3	1	0	-	-	1.333
France	Lachlan Olive	6	6	8	8	8	8	20.333
Germany	Paul Smith (GM)	5	6	6	7	8	9	20.833
Italy	John Cain	4	4	6	6	7	4	14.167
Russia	Allan Parker	5	6	5	5	3	0	4.0
Turkey	Craig Sedgwick	4	3	1	0	-	-	1.333

Quinn's Post was the first game to finish in this last round, with none of its participants expecting to finish in the top five. Shane Beck was unlucky to be one of only two English players in the whole tournament to get eliminated. France (Lachlan Olive) and Germany (GM Paul Smith) teamed up to chop up Shane and split the western centres between them. Luke Hoban (Austria) and John Cain (Italy) teamed up to demolish Craig Sedgwick (Turkey) using a little bit of help from Allan Parker (Russia) before Luke and Paul finished Allan. At the end a stab of John by Luke saw him get to 13 centres, which was enough for him to agree to the draw.

Game 12 The Sphinx 31/3/91

		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	Score
Austria	Emlyn Collins	5	5	4	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6
England	Harry Kolotas	5	5	6	7	7	9	10	11	11	13	16	29.4
France	Frank Meerbach (GM)	5	5	4	3	2	2	1	0	-	-	-	2.2
Germany	Paul Smith (GM)	4	6	6	6	7	8	8	8	8	7	3	14.8
Italy	Alex Smirnow	4	4	5	6	7	6	6	5	4	1	0	4.8
Russia	Ken Sproat	4	4	4	5	4	1	0	-	-	-	-	2.2
Turkey	Rob Wessels	4	5	5	5	7	8	9	10	11	13	15	27.7

The Sphinx was one of the most exciting games of the tournament, and was the last game to finish. Harry Kolotas, recognized as one of the leading players in Australia (he won the Bismarck Cup as Australian player of the year) had England with the two GMs as France and Germany! He was good enough to convince Paul Smith that they should attack France whoever was to turn up and play there - at these early stages I was still looking for a player to move into this game. When I was unable to locate anyone else, I reluctantly took up France myself. Harry convinced me that he would ally with me against Paul, while Paul and I were both too busy looking after two games each to talk to each other! Unfortunately for me, I was the one that Harry had lied to (his lies are hard to pick!) and I was on the back foot from the outset. As in *Plugge's Plateau*, I made them work hard for every centre but in the end was overwhelmed by superior forces. On the eastern side of the board, Rob Wessels had got off to a safe start as Turkey, and he managed to form an alliance with Alex Smirnow (Italy). For a brief period, Ken Sproat thought that he was also allied to Rob, but as soon as he left a few centres exposed, in came Rob for the kill. Emlyn Collins' Austria had already been eliminated, after letting himself be talked out of a perfectly good stab on Italy. When Ken and then myself bit the dust, it was a four way contest with things looking decidedly grim for the two central powers. If this had been a first round encounter, there may have been some chance for a draw at this point, but with Michael Hopton careering away to victory in *Gaba Tepe*, it was pretty clear to Rob (thanks to some advice from John Cain) that he did not yet have enough centres to win the tournament. Hence on they played, until by 1911 Rob

had got to 15 which he knew would be enough to give him the title. Harry had pushed on to 16 in a *Best England* performance, and only Paul was able to survive the wicked witches onslaught, being reduced to just three centres at the end.

Rob Wessels proved a worthy winner of the 1991 Victorian Diplomacy Championships, with three very consistent performances. He is famous for this approach to tournament play, and is nearly always a leading contender in each event he plays, but amazingly this is his first tournament victory. Congratulations Rob!

Michael Hopton emerged from the clouds with his last round victory to almost snatch the Championship, but in the end failed mainly due to his elimination in round one. If he had survived that game, Rob or anyone else would have needed to match Michael's win to overtake him. It was pleasing to see this return to form by Michael, who is acknowledged by his peers to be a fine tactician and a good diplomat, but whose results in previous tournaments have not always supported these beliefs. Now that he knows how to win, watch out for him in future events!

The hard luck story for the tournament is probably that of Steve Gould, who played three consistent games to finish third a comfortable margin ahead of Harry, and a frustratingly small amount behind Michael. As mentioned previously, he also lost out by narrow margins on *Best England* and on the players' choice (*Best Negotiator*) award. The first round game was probably his downfall, as he was not able to sufficiently close the seven point lead that Rob Wessels had established over him.

Harry sandwiched an unlucky elimination in the face of a super Germany/England alliance between two best country performances to finish a comfortable fourth. What a player!

Steve Bagshaw, who led going into the last round only to fall victim to Michael Hopton, must now be a contender for 1991 player of the year, having followed his second place at Cancon with a creditable fifth place here. Naturally enough, Rob Wessels is the leading contender, having finished third at Cancon.

Bill Brown, Craig Sedgwick and Rob Stephenson all played well throughout and all were victims of last-round hit-the-leader campaigns.

The *Bride of Eric* scoring system proved easy to apply, and in my opinion was very fair to all players. Thanks to Paul Smith who double-checked all my calculations and corrected my errors!

I'd like to thank our tournament sponsors, **Jedko Games** and **R & R Strategy Games**, for supplying some of the prizes. Hopefully Diplomacy players everywhere will get the message that these companies support our hobby - it would be appropriate for all of us to support them as well.

Thanks to all of the people who helped in various ways to make this tournament a success. The long list includes John Cain, Bill Brown, George Smirnow, Rob Wessels, Steve Bagshaw, Jay Hawley, Luke Hoban, Peter Pascoe and Paul Smith.

Thanks also to Greg Calder and Karl Hemphill for helping us to make up the numbers on Friday and Saturday. And finally, thanks to all the players for turning up and making this a worthwhile event. Next year I'll want to play, so we'll need a new ~~mag~~ volunteer to take over the running of the show. Be prepared to lose some money on the deal!

Frank Meerbach
Tournament Director

Final Standings 1991 Victorian Diplomacy Championships

Rank	Name of Player	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total Score
1	Rob Wessels	3 R 22.375	6 F 22.833	12 T 27.700	72.908 <62>
2	Michael Hopton	2 G 2.700	5 T 15.111	9 R 53.111	70.922 <52>
3	Steve Gould	2 F 15.400	8 A 26.500	10 E 29.000	70.900 <62>
4	Harry Kolotas	2 T 30.200	5 A 4.000	12 E 29.400	63.600 <59>
5	Steven Bagshaw	1 R 22.000	7 F 33.333	9 T 0.778	56.111 <50>
6	Bill Brown	2 R 30.000	6 A 21.167	10 I 1.400	52.567 <57>
7	Craig Sedgwick	3 E 20.375	5 G 28.111	11 T 1.333	49.819 <55>
8	Rob Stephenson	3 F 21.625	8 T 22.000	9 G 4.444	48.069 <57>
9	Alex Smirnow	4 R 11.875	5 E 27.444	12 I 4.800	44.119 <47>
10	Lachlan Olive	3 G 1.875	8 E 19.333	11 F 20.333	41.541 <50>
11	Jill Mentiplay	1 I 23.400	5 F 2.667	10 R 15.200	41.267 <48>
12	John Cain	4 F 25.250	7 A 1.111	11 I 14.167	40.528 <49>
13	Luke Hoban	2 E 1.700	6 T 12.167	11 A 25.833	39.700 <50>
14	Adrian Fegan	4 T 16.125	7 I 22.000	9 F 1.333	39.458 <47>
15	Allan Parker	4 E 25.000	8 F 10.167	11 R 4.000	39.167 <51>
16	Peter Pascoe	3 I 10.625	7 R 10.222	10 T 13.900	34.747 <48>
17	George Smirnow	1 T 2.600	6 G 8.833	9 E 22.667	34.100 <45>
18	Rohan Flavelle	1 G 3.500	8 I 8.000	10 A 17.600	29.100
19	Albert Chen	3 A 0.750	6 R 13.667	10 G 12.700	27.117
20	Ken Sproat	2 I 2.600	7 T 17.889	12 R 2.200	22.689 <45>
21	Andrew Pass	1 E 18.600	6 I 1.667	- - -	20.267
22	George Majer	4 A 10.875	5 R 1.444	9 I 7.889	20.208
23	Greg Calder	1 F 16.300	- - -	- - -	16.300
24	Shane Beck	1 A 1.400	5 I 4.000	11 E 1.333	6.733
25	Emlyn Collins	4 G 1.125	8 R 0.833	12 A 1.600	3.558
26	Michael Chau	2 A 0.400	- - -	9 A 2.556	2.996
27	Karl Hemphill	- - -	7 G 2.333	- - -	2.333

Game numbers correspond to those given in the report. Best country performances are shown in bold.

Rob Wessels won the **Best Negotiator Award**, on a countback from **Steve Gould**. Best Negotiator scores for those who polled 45 votes or more are shown in angle brackets after the players *Bride of Eric* score.

Winners Best Country Awards

Best Russia	53.111	Michael Hopton	18 centres	1909 <i>Gaba Tepe</i>
Best France	33.333	Steven Bagshaw	17 centres	1909 <i>The Nek</i>
Best Turkey	30.200	Harry Kolotas	15 centres	1910 <i>Hell Spit</i>
Best England	29.400	Harry Kolotas	16 centres	1911 <i>The Sphinx</i>
Best Germany	28.111	Craig Sedgwick	14 centres	1909 <i>Baby 700</i>
Best Austria	26.500	Steve Gould	13 centres	1906 <i>Steele's Post</i>
Best Italy	23.400	Jill Mentiplay	11 centres	1912 <i>Anzac Cove</i>

Other 10+ centre efforts

Steve Gould	England	16 centres	1911	29.000	<i>Plugge's Plateau</i>
Bill Brown	Russia	15 centres	1910	30.000	<i>Hell Spit</i>
Rob Wessels	Turkey	15 centres	1911	27.700	<i>The Sphinx</i>
Alex Smirnow	England	14 centres	1909	27.444	<i>Baby 700</i>
George Smirnow	England	14 centres	1909	22.667	<i>Gabe Tepe</i>
Luke Hoban	Austria	13 centres	1906	25.833	<i>Quinn's Post</i>
John Cain	France	12 centres	1908	25.250	<i>Lone Pine</i>
Allan Parker	England	12 centres	1908	25.000	<i>Lone Pine</i>
Rob Wessels	France	10 centres	1906	22.833	<i>Chunuk Bair</i>
Steve Bagshaw	Russia	10 centres	1912	22.000	<i>Anzac Cove</i>

Frank Meerbach
Tournament Director

The Australian

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Awarding The

BISMARCK CUP

for the Best Tournament Results throughout the year.

1. The "National Tournament Championship" will be awarded for the "best tournament results" at Australian tournaments throughout the calendar year. It will be presented at the following Australian Championships.
2. All tournaments are eligible to be counted for the award, provided they meet the following criteria:
 - * The tournament must be advertised at least one month in advance, in at least one Australian Diplomacy magazine.
 - * The tournament must be at least one full day in duration, and there must be at least three separate boards (i.e. approx. 21 players minimum).
3. Normally, it would be expected that the Australian Championships and all state championships would be included, plus any other tournaments held throughout the year (such as "Bendicon" or "Central Coast") provided they meet the above criteria. The decision to include, or exclude, any tournament will be made by the committee.
4. Scoring System: For a detailed explanation, see Appendix 1.

	Australian		State		Other	
	7 plus boards	3 to 6 boards	7 plus boards	3 to 6 boards	7 plus boards	3 to 6 boards
1st	150	120	120	100	100	50
2nd	113	90	90	75	75	38
3rd	98	78	78	65	65	33
4th	83	66	66	55	55	28
5th	75	60	60	50	50	25
6th	67	54	54	45	45	23
7th	60	48	48	40	40	20
8th-10th	38	30	30	25	25	15
11th-14th	30	24	24	20	20	15

In addition, the following points are awarded at all eligible tournaments, irrespective of size, for placings lower than 14th:

Top half of field:	15
1/2 to 3/4 way through field:	10
3/4 to bottom of field:	5

The interim 1991 National Tournament Championships Committee consists of:

Harry Kolotas, 44 Arthur St, Forestville, 2087.

John Cain, 76 Banool Rd, Balwyn, 3103.

Comments are welcome and may be posted to either of the above.

Don't forget: "Think about it deeply and very carefully!" and
"It is for the good of the hobby!"

Appendix 1: NATIONAL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1991 Scoring System.

There are three levels of tournaments:

- 1) Australian Championships,
- 2) State Championships,
- 3) Other Tournaments.

These are further broken according to the size of the tournament; tournaments 7 boards and larger being awarded more points than those 3 to 6 boards in size:

Thus the final multipliers are:

	7 plus boards	3 to 6 boards
Australian Champs	1.5	1.2
State Champs	1.2	1.0
Other Tournaments	1.0	0.5

The base points are:

1st	100
2nd	75
3rd	65
4th	55
5th	50
6th	45
7th	40
8-10	25
11-14	20

In addition, the following points are awarded at all eligible tournaments, irrespective of size or importance, for placings lower than 14th:

Top half of field:	15
1/2 to 3/4 way through field:	10
3/4 to bottom of field:	5

Putting these together produces the following table of points:

	Australian		State		Other	
	7 plus boards	3 to 6 boards	7 plus boards	3 to 6 boards	7 plus boards	3 to 6 boards
1st	150	120	120	100	100	50
2nd	113	90	90	75	75	38
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The following points are awarded for placings lower than 14th:

Top half of field:	15
1/2 to 3/4 way through field:	10
3/4 to bottom of field:	5

The National Tournament Championship will be decided using a "Grand Prix" style system. It can be argued that ideally the Championship would be decided on the basis of actual games played. However, there are now several different tournament ratings systems in use in Australia. Since people play tournaments to win, based on the ratings system in use at that tournament, it would hardly be fair to convert games played under one system to another ratings system. Other advantages of a "grand prix" style system are that it is quick and simple to calculate and that it is easy to apply modifiers for tournament size and perceived importance. Finally, the basic aim of the system? To reward players who attend lots of tournaments!

He knew they were out there, inevitably making their way to his home, from all over the country, all walks of life, to make his life hell. Visitors from another dimension? Nightmarish creations from a horror movie? No far worse, these were visiting Diplomacy players for a Tournament.

Foolishly, he had summoned them himself. At the time, he thought that it was harmless fun, like playing with a ouija board but he had no idea of the dark forces he had unleashed. Beings of power who were normally summoned by only the most powerful of Cabals, like those at Cancon had been summoned by this mere slip of a Smirnow.

The terrible Couple of Cudal were followed by the spirits of those he had stabbed in the past and lo there were legions of them. The LONG hand of Corryong stretched out to grab him by the throat, the Merciless Murderous Marianne reached forward with her long talons, eager to rip the centres from his quivering boardy. Even the Petrifying, Pulsating Perkins had come forth from his lair, saying the words that he feared most, NMR! NMR! NMR! The spirit of Victoriana swept forward and struck him thrice saying the mark of CAIN is upon ye. The lonely one, of Gibson name, said now I shall never be lonely, I will live with ye for eternity. The Brown Billed one cursed him for eternity, your interview was so good, ye were voted VDC coordinator for the term of your unnatural life. The spirit of Lachlan stated, not only has Doublethink lasted a year plus two but now ye get to edit it too! Orrible Airey Yborians made him subscribe to their folded zines and Fuzzy called him names from Another Shore.

Knives were drawn and sharpened too as was claw and fang, he knew that he was doomed today and that he'd surely hang. He begged, he pleaded, he did the best he could, he had no success at all that day, twas as if they were made of wood. And they stabbed him once, they stabbed him twice, they stabbed him many times and I bet that you all wish that I would stop these stupid rhymes. Down to his last unit and Autumn was that turn, he fought his hardest to survive but was left to burn...

He awoke and saw that it was just 3 am, it was only a nightmare.

But then he heard a knock upon the door and there was Bob Howard standing there.

DAVID MAKIN

SF & Fantasy Trivia Quiz, Answers

1. Neuromancer William Gibson (1 point).
2. The Foundation series, Issac Asimov (2 points).
3. Gor or Counter-Earth (1 point).
4. The Riverworld series, Philip Jose Farmer (2 points).
5. Eowyn (1/2 point for Merry -- Eowyn struck the final blow) (1 point).
6. The Man in Black -- a sorcerer named Walter (1 point).
7. The slave-girl Briseis -- awarded to Achilles by the Greek army, but taken by King Agamemnon (1 point).
8. The Nyissian Queen Salmisra (1 point).
9. Starship Heart of Gold (1 point).
10. Death, Time, Nature, Fate and War (also Good and Evil, but lets not get moral shall we?) (5 points).

Scores (out of 15): 15 Paul Yovich, 12 Jeff Perkins & Richard Klienbergs,
10 1/2 Pete Gaughan, 4 John Cain, 1 Stephen Thompson (for inventiveness).

NOTICES

VICTORIAN DIPLOMACY CLUB: Next meeting: **Saturday 4 May** at the Camberwell Uniting Church Hall, 316 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell. There is no June meeting; the following meeting will be on 6 July. Contact: John Cain on (03) 836 2285 ah. Meetings start at 12 noon.

GAME OPENINGS

Normal Diplomacy (GM Frank Meerbach): C Brown, L Cosgrave, J McClelland, T Homatas, M Hastings, M Chau, A Hoy. **FULL**. Players must confirm interest to John Cain by 20.05.91

International Normal Diplomacy (GM JC): B Wilson (USA), M Goncalves (USA), D Jew (S'pore), V Hall (UK), N Kendrick (UK), P Yovich?? (Aus). A real disgrace: how about a few more Aussies? Need one or two more.

Next Normal Diplomacy Game will not start until the International Game (above) has filled.

Skumball (GM KS). **FULL**. Game start in this issue.

Another Variant: I keep promising - hopefully some rules in this issue

STANDBYS: Standbys who are called, even if not needed, receive a free issue! *Wow!*

The List: John Dods (Downfall), Jeff Perkins (Normal), Michael Norrish (Normal), Ken Sproat (Normal), David Makin (Hannibal), Andrew Hoy (Normal), Theo Homatas (Normal), Les Hall (Downfall), Matt Hastings (Normal), Shane Beck (Variants), Michael Goncalves (International), Pete Chalmers (Normal). If you want on or off the list, let me know. **MORE STANDBYS ALWAYS NEEDED**

FORTHCOMING DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENTS:

Diplomacy Expo 1991: 1991 NSW Diplomacy Championships, 8-10 June, Paddinton-Woolahra RSL, 226 Oxford St, Paddington, Sydney. Contact: Luke Clutterbuck, 16/353A Old South Head Rd, Bondi Beach, 2026. (02) 303 972

World Diplomacy Convention 1992: Canberra, Australia, 25-27 January 1992

Organiser: Luke Clutterbuck, 16/353A Old South Head Rd, Bondi Beach, 2026. (02) 303 972.

UK & European Contact: Michael Gibson, 1/98 Great Titchfield St, London, W1P 7AG, UK.

North American Contact: David Hood, 104-F Terrace Drive, Cary, NC, 27511, USA

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENTS:

Manorcon: 19-22 July 1991, Birmingham, UK. Richard Walkerdine, 13 Offley Rd, Hetchin, Herts, SG5 2AZ, UK.

Dipcon: 2-4 August, Toronto, Canada. Contact: Cal White, 1 Turnberry Ave, Toronto, ONT, M6N 1P6, CANADA.

HELLO TO: Victor Hall, 49 Varty Rd, Stamford Hill, London, N15, U.K.
Michael Chau, 3/174 Prospect Hill Rd, Canterbury, Vic, 3126.
Matt Hastings, "Selecta" Elys Ln, Harcourt North, Vic, 3453
A. Fahd, 18 Dunlop St, Roselands, NSW, 2196

MONEY MATTERS (as at 25.04.91):

Subs received: Hastings, Hall, Castle, Perkins, Meerbach, Gould, Klienbergs, Jew

Next issue is last: Appleyard, Bright, Douglas, Homatas, Mentplay, Olive, Pollinger, Reiff

This issue is last: Clutterbuck, Hoban, Strong, Pascoe, McHugh.

DEADLINES

DEADLINES

DEADLINES

SOBERS & BOTHAM

All other games

Contributions & Letters

GM's Maps

Monday 17 June 1991.

Monday 20 May 1991.

Friday 17 May 1991.

Wednesday 22 May 1991.